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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

How worried are you about the entry of the H1N1 virus into the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Immigration Woes

For lesbian couple Jay Mercado and Shirley Tan, home has always been where the heart is.

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Young Author

KidsPost asked Alec Greven, 10, for some advice about celebrating Mother's Day.

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Beating Case

Chris Brown's attorney has requested police files regarding the alleged beating of Rihanna.

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Jobs of 15 MVA employees may be saved. **PAGE 3**
After 10-year absence, Guam opens DC office. **PAGE 5**

PSS now offers maximum $10K pay differential to SpEd posts

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System and the Board of Education are hopeful that, with the salary adjustment now in place for Special Education personnel, the shortage of related service providers would soon be addressed.

This comes after the Education Board formally adopted in its last meeting the new regulation providing incentives and pay differential for hard-to-fill Special Education personnel.

The new regulation, which was published in the Commonwealth Register in February, aims to retain qualified related services personnel in the system and for PSS to remain competitive in recruiting

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House split on reviving public lands board

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives are split on a proposal to revive a public lands board of directors, leading to an 8-7 vote yesterday that rejected a committee recommendation to put Senate Bill 16-42 on the House floor.

After a lengthy discussion on both the pros and cons of reviving a public lands board and the voting on the com-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, center standing, shares a light moment with Rep. Victor Hocog, left, Floor Leader Joseph Camacho, right, and Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, seated, during a break in yesterday's session. Also in photo is Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, at the back.

'MOST ALLEGED CORRUPTION CASES INVOLVE PROCUREMENT'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Pai

Public Auditor Mike Pai said alleged corruption cases that the Office of the Public Auditor is currently looking into involve the procurement of services and goods because these transactions in-

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CONTACT INFO

- Office of the Public Auditor: (670) 322-6481/2
- OPA hotline: (670) 322-3936.

Ex-CUC *chief's sentencing set next month*

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Guerrero

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony C. Guerrero, a key witness in the trial of former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, was ordered to appear in federal court next month for

See EX-CUC on Page 4

UKULELE MASTERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan's own Ukituki ukulele group, led by Larry Lee, poses for a souvenir picture after a special Golden Week live performance at the DFS Galleria on May 6.

Local

Seat belt use in CNMI up 3.8 percent in 2009

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Seat belt use in the CNMI dramatically increased by 3.8 percent in the first half of this fiscal year, according to the Department of Public Safety.

From an 86-percent usage rate by travelers on CNMI roadways in 2008, the rate went up to 89.8 percent during the last six months of this fiscal year, according to separate surveys conducted in those periods.

CNMI law strongly supports the use of safety belts.

Just last Tuesday, May 5, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed a proclamation designating May 18-31 as "CNMI Click It Or Ticket Mobilization."

In line with this, Fitial is urging all residents and visitors to buckle up and buckle up their children when driving or riding on roadways.

The proclamation stressed the importance of the safety and security of all citizens and visitors to Saipan and its surrounding areas.

"Increasing regular use of safety belts is the single most effective way to protect people, reduce fatalities and injuries and lives," the proclamation states.

Nearly one of five Americans fails to regularly wear seat belts. About 14,464 passenger vehicle occupants died in crashes between the hours of 6pm and 5:59am according to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

NHTSA reported that about 63 percent were not wearing seat belts, compared to 45 percent of unbelted daytime occupants from 6am to 5:59pm.

The study also revealed that in 2007 alone, the proper use of seat belts saved an estimated 15,147 lives and an additional 5,024 lives could have been saved if seat belts were worn at the time of the crash.

In connection with the Click It or Ticket mobilization period, CNMI law enforcement officers on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian will participate in mobilizing efforts to ensure all motor vehicle occupants strictly comply with the law by buckling up day and night.

DPS said this would reduce the risk of injury and death caused by traffic crashes as well as increase the enforcement of seat belt laws.

It said the proclamation signing would help the campaign because "publicity has been proven to be an effective method to increase seat belt use rates and decrease fatal crashes."

First ARRA contract awarded to Guam-based small business

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded a $3.4 million firm-fixed price, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contract April 30 to Guam-based, small business Tumon Corp. for the repair and modernization of a bachelor quarters building at Camp Covington on U.S. Naval Base Guam.

"This award represents NAVFAC Marianas' commitment and support of President Obama's initiative to keep America working and to jumpstart the economy," said Capt. Paul Fuligni, NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer. "We are pleased to have awarded our first ARRA contract to a local small business, and look forward to completion of the project, which will enhance the quality of life for our Seabees on base."

The work to be performed includes furnishing all labor, material, equipment and incidentals required to repair and modernize bachelor quarters building 579. It further entails replacement of interior and exterior doors with a card key system, and installation of stronger doors to withstand inclement weather conditions, such as 170-mph wind velocity typhoons.

Work is scheduled to start next month, with a completion date of April 2010.

All together, NAVFAC Marianas will oversee more than $16 million in ARRA-funded projects that are meant to provide much-needed improvements, repairs and modernization to Navy installations and facilities on Guam.

NAVFAC Marianas' mission is to strengthen combat readiness through military construction, installation management, and facility operations support. ***(PR)***

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Jobs of 15 MVA employees may be saved

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With a 17-0 vote, the House of Representatives yesterday passed a bill reprogramming $206,396.34 from the Marianas Visitors Authority's operations budget to its personnel appropriation, a move that could save the job of 15 of 35 current MVA employees.

Floor amendments to House Bill 16-243 changed the reprogrammed amount from $172,240.323 to $206,396.34.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, during yesterday's session, told House members that the agency will cut costs in non-personnel expenditures to cope with the impact of the reprogramming of funds to personnel appropriations.

He said without the reprogramming, MVA stands to lose 15 employees.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Tenorio said members of the Senate he spoke to are receptive to the idea of reprogramming funds within the MVA budget to save employee jobs.

"We're not asking for money from outside; this is just to work within our appropriation," he said.

Rep. Victor Hocog, during the session, said he's disappointed that the furlough notices caused MVA employees to bug him in the middle of the night asking for help to save their jobs.

But Rep. Diego Benavente said constituents have reasons to ask for their representatives for help.

Last month, Tenorio issued a notice to its 35 employees of a reduction in force effective June 1 in order to stay within the funding level for the rest of the fiscal year.

A reduction in force could mean a cut in work hours, long-term furloughs, reduction in staff and elimination of functions.

Yesterday, Tenorio said the reprogramming of $206,396.34 will ensure all 35 employees will have a 40-hour workweek.

H.B. 16-243, introduced by Rep. Ray Yumul, says MVA's personnel cost for Fiscal Year 2009 is about $1.16 million. However, Public Law 16-32 or the budget law appropriated $955,597 for MVA's personnel costs, creating a shortfall.

The bill says if funds are not reprogrammed, MVA would have to reduce its work hours.

Public services, according to the bill, would seriously be hampered by MVA's proposed drastic reduction in hours.

MVA is one of the latest government agencies considering ways to cut costs.

The Fitial administration earlier said thousands of government employees could be furloughed in order to stay within the $156.76 million budget without cost-reductions measures, including unpaid holidays and austerity Fridays. Gov. Benigno Fitial has since said he plans on using approximately $8 million from federal stimulus funds to cover any deficit in payroll costs for the rest of the fiscal year.

CPA demands lease payment from CUC

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has notified the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. that it must pay for the lease of some of the airport's property on Saipan and Rota that CUC has been using without any agreement with the ports management.

CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho, in several letters to CUC director Antonio Muna, said that CPA does not have any written document regarding the use of its property on Rota where CUC's power plant is located.

"CUC has utilized the CPA property without any benefit to CPA. …This cannot continue because Rota CPA operation continues to be in deficit year after year," Camacho reported to the board.

He demands that the use of the property be put in writing via a memorandum of agreement or a lease agreement between the two agencies.

Camacho wants CUC to offset the monthly utilities obligations of CPA-Rota in exchange for CUC using its property, emphasizing that this lack of payment for the use of the property "cannot and must not continue."

Also, the ports authority official discovered that CUC does not have any written permission regarding CUC's sand filtration system and water catchments at the Saipan International Airport.

Like CPA Rota, Camacho said that Saipan cannot continue the practice of having CUC use the property for free since CPA must enhance its revenue collection or reduce operation costs in order to meet its debt service under the airport bond.

A recommendation to offset the utility billings of the Saipan airport with that of CUC's use of the property was also put on CUC's table.

Camacho disclosed that the current site of CUC's sand filtration system at the Saipan airport would soon be used by the ports authority for its expansion plan for the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

"CUC must develop a plan to relocate the system because the area is part of the SIA expansion plan," he said.

In a recent meeting between the agencies' officials, it was reported that Muña had acknowledged the CPA's concerns but that no concrete solution was ever identified.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for May 15.

Saipan Tribune learned that CPA is being billed by the utilities company approximately $50,000 in average monthly consumption.

As a cost-cutting measure, the ports management has implemented internal saving efforts to reduce utility consumption by closely monitoring all electrically-run equipment and air-conditioning units in all its facilities.

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Garapan Branch at
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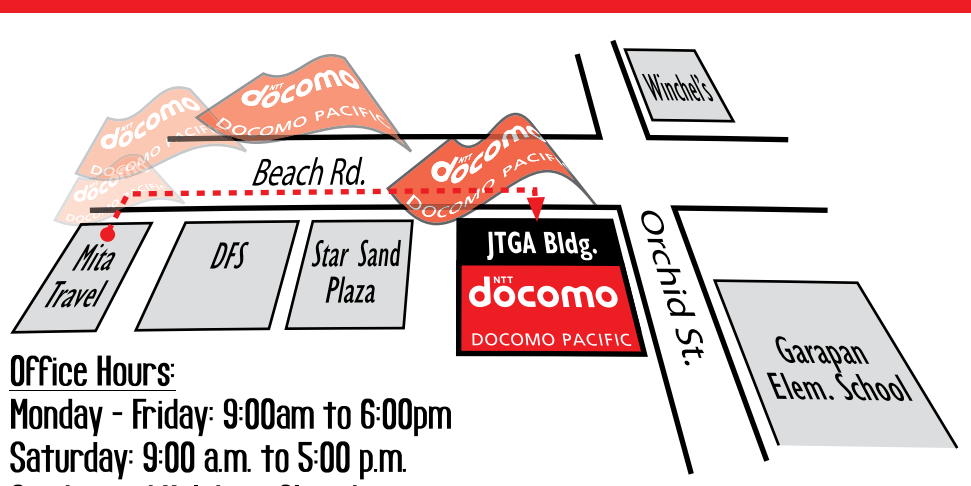

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Monday - Friday: 9:00am to 6:00pm
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Mother's Day SPECIALS

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IT&E donates $5,000 to NMC Foundation

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta and NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez accept a $5,000 donation from IT&E marketing director Kathryn Barry and IT&E marketing coordinator Jenni Aguon.

Reinforcing its commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for CNMI students, IT&E recently presented a $5,000 donation to the Northern Marianas College Foundation.

"We are proud of the longstanding partnership that our company has with the Northern Marianas College," said Larry Knecht, executive vice president of IT&E. "We will continue to support the college and its efforts to advance higher education and to play a central role in the training and development of the local workforce."

The donation, made through the Educational Tax Credit program, was presented in support of the upcoming 7th Annual Golf Foundation Open golf tournament, which is organized by the NMC Foundation. The tournament, the organization's signature event, aims to raise critical funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"We are immensely grateful for IT&E's generous contribution," said Ben Babauta, president of the NMC Foundation. "Their continued support of the Foundation year after year is one of the reasons the golf tournament has been as successful as it has been."

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's lone post-secondary educational institution. The organization is composed of individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the utmost support in pursuing their educational goals.

"We are deeply thankful for IT&E's donation," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "The company's donation will open many doors for our students."

Saipan Laolao will play host to the 7th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament, scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2009. For sponsorship information or to register to play, please contact 234-5498 extension 1050. ***(NMC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Ruel Muria, who is celebrating his birthday today, May 9, 2009. Greetings come from Susan Bontiago.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CORRUPTION

From Page 1

volve substantial amount of funds.

"These transactions are more difficult to investigate because they often involve collusion of various individuals. The issues of corruption may also arise in transactions related to personnel, travel, representation expenses, and land transactions, among others. Persons at any level of government may be involved, including top officials," Pai told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rosauro D. Zapanta, senior analyst manager, said OPA could not disclose the number of ongoing audits and investigations that arose from allegations of corruption.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial earlier said his administration does not tolerate corruption.

The public auditor also said the result of the federal case that found former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James Santos and his wife Joaquina Santos guilty of defrauding the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. serves as a deterrent.

"OPA views the outcome of the case as a deterrent because it shows that persons at any level of government or society involved in corruption can be brought to justice," Pai said.

Villagomez is the highest CNMI official ever to be convicted. Former CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero and other CUC employees testified against the defendants.

"It appears that more members of the community are now willing to exercise their civil rights and openly testify in corruption cases. It appears that there are more people out there who will not be intimidated and are willing to do what is right. This will encourage public officials to perform their duties the right way," Pai added.

OPA has been conducting presentations about the Government Ethics Code Act of 1992. Government and private entities may request OPA for the presentation.

The Ethics Act prohibits government officials and employees from soliciting gifts or gratuities, among other things.

For more information, or to report a possible violation, contact OPA at (670) 322-6481/2, or by calling the OPA hotline at (670) 322-3936.

EX-CUC

From Page 1

his sentencing.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the sentencing of Guerrero for June 22 at 9am.

Munson issued the order after Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley and attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for Guerrero, agreed to ask the court to schedule the sentencing.

Guerrero was the last witness called by the prosecution in the trial of Villagomez, his sister Joaquina V. Santos, and her husband, former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos.

Villagomez, the Santos couple, and Guerrero were accused of engaging in a scheme to bilk the CNMI government out of thousands of dollars through a series of needless Rydlyme chemical purchases. They were also charged with bribery.

A jury found the three guilty of all charges. Their sentencing was set for July 28, 2009.

Guerrero entered a plea deal last Aug. 11 with the U.S. government. He pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy, an offense that could send him to prison for up to five years or mere probation.

Guerrero's sentencing was originally set for Feb. 27, 2009, but Munson ordered in January that Guerrero's sentencing be taken off-calendar. Munson said the sentencing would be rescheduled.

The judge ordered the delay of the sentencing after Guerrero's counsel and O'Malley asked to reset the sentencing hearing.

Torres and O'Malley agreed that postponing the sentencing hearing until after the end of the trial would be appropriate.

HOUSE

From Page 1

mittee report, the bill was referred back to the House Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Rep. Ramon Tebuteb.

Standing Committee Report 16-87 recommends that S.B. 16-42 be put to a floor vote. The bill seeks to reinstate a board of directors for the Department of Public Lands while keeping DPL within the Executive Branch. The bill aims to lend a higher level of transparency to DPL's decision-making.

Five House members were absent during voting on the committee report.

Lawmakers took turns weighing the pros and cons of having a secretary appointed by the governor to decide on public lands matters or reinstate a board of directors so that public lands decisions will not rest solely on one person. Others are opposed to the idea of reinstating a board but still keeping DPL under the Executive Branch, saying the department should be a separate agency.

Those who voted "no" to the committee report were Rep. Diego T. Benavente, Floor Leader Joe Camacho, Rep. Victor Hocog, Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, Rep. Joe Reyes, Rep. Tina Sablan, Rep. Ralph Torres, and Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

The seven who voted "yes" included Reps. Edwin Aldan, David Apatang, Oscar M. Babauta, Francisco Dela Cruz, Ray Tebuteb, Stanley Torres, and Vice Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero.

Absent during the voting were Reps. Raymond Palacios, Justo Quitugua, Rosemond Santos, Ray Yumul, and Ed Salas.

Apatang said it doesn't matter whether public land decisions rest solely on one person or a board of directors, so long as every decision maker follows the law.

"I'm supporting this bill 100 percent. Let's file it and let the law decide," said Apatang.

Rep. Ralph Torres said having one person deciding on public land matters "is totally wrong," and there should be "checks and balances."

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Rep. Diego T. Benavente and others said past abuses by MPLA board members were among the reasons why the body was abolished, giving way to DPL, which has been placed under the Executive Branch.

Reps. Tina Sablan and Heinz Hofschneider said another major concern is the absence of an updated land use plan that, Sablan said, is "disturbing."

"We're told by DPL that the land use plan is somewhere in the DPL office. My fear is that there isn't really a land use plan," said Sablan.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, said the bill uses "hope" that by reviving a board, there will be better accountability.

During discussions on accountability of decision makers, Floor Leader Joe Camacho pointed out that department heads like the DPL secretary are not subject to impeachment.

Rep. Victor Hocog said he likes to see a board that will ensure fairness in the disposition of public lands. "This is a judgment call on each of the member," he said.

Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz said DPL is still in its infancy stage and should be given time to grow.

The committee report said the bill's intention is noble and respectable as it helps DPL create checks and balances in dealing with land issues and claims against DPL.

But the committee also finds that it's not recommended that a board be created for DPL while the department is not autonomous.

The committee said the creation of the deputy administrator position for Tinian and Rota will be an additional financial burden to DPL and may also be subject to abuse as the position will be appointed by each respective mayor, with the advice and consent of the municipal councils and may only be removed by the mayor.

The House committee also cited the Office of the Public Auditor's report on the travel and per diem abuses of former public lands board members.

In the four-page report, the committee agrees with Northern Islands Mayor Valentin Taisakan that the bill does not provide specific schedules of board meetings in a calendar year, or the number of days authorized for such meetings.

"We should learn from past experience that such openhanded provisions or policy have been overly abused, which has cost the CNMI hundreds of thousands of dollars or more," said Taisakan in commenting on S.B. 16-42.

The Senate had passed the bill on Oct. 2, 2008, on an 8 to 0 vote.

PSS

From Page 1

qualified candidates.

The incentives were approved and will be given retroactively to August 2008, when the board originally approved the proposal.

A pay differential of $10,000—the maximum approved incentive—will be provided for someone with a doctorate degree in specialty areas such as speech pathologists, audiologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and psychologists. In this category, pay differential will be paid out on a quarterly basis and are subject to pro-rata calculation, should a complete 190-day contract is not met.

An $8,000 pay differential was also adopted for related service professionals that require a national registry exam and licensure from a national association. These include certified audiologists, certified speech language pathologists, registered physical therapists, registered occupational therapists, and registered/licensed educational psychologists. The incentive is also scheduled for pay out on a quarterly basis.

For those with a bachelor's degree in Special Education, the board has approved a $3,000 pay differential on top of their salary. These specialty areas cover special education, early intervention, early childhood special education, deaf education, visual impairments, severe disabilities, autism, multiple disabilities, serious social and emotional disturbances, and behavioral and transition specialist.

Special Education personnel and related service providers who are outside the 190-day contract, or those working on an hourly basis, are approved a $75 per hour pay differential.

An example is during weekends or during non-instructional days where a pre-approval of the authorized supervisor and education commissioner is required to avail of the hourly pay differential.

If an individual qualifies for two or more pay differentials, only one pay differential that compensates at a higher rate will be allowed.

Vacancies

PSS reported that in school year 2007-2008, its Special Education program operated with 12 unfilled positions—six speech pathologists, three occupational therapists, two educational psychologists, and one physical therapist.

On top of this, seven teacher vacancies were noted last school year—in Hopwood Junior High, Garapan Elementary, William S. Reyes Elementary, Tinian Elementary, Tinian Jr. and High School, San Vicente Elementary, and Kagman High.

Saipan Tribune learned that the program currently has 36 teachers, of whom 22 are highly qualified, five with degrees in Special Education, and 9 with Special Education certifications.

The report also indicated that related service personnel during the last school year included only two speech pathologists, three occupational therapists, a physical therapist, four educational psychologists, one behavioral specialist, one assistive technology specialist, one audiologist, one transition coordinator, and one vision and orientation mobility specialist.

Community invited to watch Parade of Books today

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

All is set for the 4th Annual Parade of Books today at the Marianas High School Gymnasium and the Saipan Rotary Club is inviting the community to participate in the event.

"We are inviting the community to support the students as they showcase their talents," said Rotary Club president Ben Babauta during the club's regular Tuesday meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The Parade of Books, scheduled to start at 2pm today, is a contest where students dramatize the books they've read. It aims to promote literacy and reading among students in the CNMI

From last year's seven schools, the number of participating schools has increased to nine: Garapan Elementary School, Grace Christian Academy, Kagman Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, Oleaia Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Tanapag Elementary School, Dandan Elementary School, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

Bigger prizes are at stake for the winners this year—$1,000 for first prize, $750 for second, and $500 for third.

The other schools are guaranteed consolation prizes of $200 each.

Aside from cash prizes, the winners and best producers will also take home pool passes, overnight stay with breakfast at the Pacific Islands Club, and trophies.

Last year, the San Vicente Elementary School bested other schools with their dynamic presentation of *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, bringing home $700 plus a trophy.

Taste of the Marianas today

The 11th Annual Taste of the Marianas Food Festival and Beer Garden is ongoing at the American Memorial Park every Saturday: May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2009.

- 6pm-6:60pm Falun Dafa Dancers
- 6:30 pm -7pm Mai'kai band (Larry Lee)
- 7 pm -8pm Uncle Ben's music and dance studio
- 8 pm -8:30 Saipan Poongmulpae band (Simon Sin) Representing Korean Community
- 8:30 pm -9pm Palauan Community
- 9 pm -10pm Burning Bush

For more information contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at telephone numbers (670) 664-3200/ 01. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 4th birthday to Uwaeitaan Joy Raiukiulipiy! May you continue to grow into a smart and strong young lady! Lots of love from your Mommy, Daddy, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After 10-year absence, Guam opens DC office

Gov. Felix P. Camacho announced Tuesday the opening of the Washington D.C. Office of the Governor of Guam at the Hall of the States. Guam now joins government offices from 30 states in the 225,000 square foot facility on 444 North Capitol Street.

"This office brings the voice of our people and the needs of our island to the doorsteps of the federal government," said Camacho. "I thank the State Services Organization for their assistance in re-establishing our presence during this critical time for Guam."

The office is expected to advance an aggressive Executive Branch agenda and serve as a liaison between the government of Guam and key Washington officials.

Camacho's deputy chief of staff and director of Guam's Washington D.C. Office, Shawn Gumataotao, began the first day by meeting with White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, deputy director Shaun McGrath. The two discussed the status of the upcoming Fiscal Year 2010 Federal Budget submitted by the Office of Management and Budget to Congress.

The remainder of the week will be spent meeting with Obama Administration officials to discuss Guam's implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"This is an exciting time for our island and a great opportunity to extend the voice of Guam in our nation's capitol," said Gumataotao. "An important talking point of this office will be what Governor Camacho has made clear from the Pentagon to Capitol Hill; that all federal policies concerning Guam must have a corresponding federal commitment to its execution on our island."

The D.C. Office of the Governor will coordinate its activities with the Office of Guam's Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives and the Camacho Administration.

The established presence of the Guam office will also assist Camacho during an oversight hearing before the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife scheduled for May 19, 2009. The hearing will cover the implementation of Public Law 110-229 to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.

The Governor of Guam Liaison Office was first established in Washington D.C. in 1983. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Populism, not tax reform

President Obama roiled the business community Monday by proposing to hike taxes on income generated outside the United States. The changes, which supposedly would close loopholes and remove incentives to export jobs and investment, would bring an estimated $210 billion to the Treasury over the next decade. We're all for closing loopholes and ending tax shelters that enable the wealthy to hide income. But we're not convinced that changing tax law can stop corporations from steering jobs and capital to countries with the lowest costs.

The smallest piece of the package, and the easiest to support, is devoted to overseas tax havens used by wealthy individuals. The administration aims to crack down on individuals who conceal income in foreign shelters and the companies that assist them. Obama also wants to eliminate a technique that many multinational businesses use to shift profits from operations in high-tax jurisdictions to those in low-tax ones. We support efforts to prevent companies from playing shell games overseas, although the administration's proposal may help foreign treasuries more than the IRS.

The most troubling pieces of the package are the ones aimed at "removing tax incentives for shifting jobs overseas." In particular, Obama wants to reduce a tax break for companies that invest in foreign subsidiaries but don't bring the profits back to be taxed at the (presumably higher) U.S. rate. The underlying assumption is that foreign investments hurt American workers and should be discouraged by the tax code. But there's growing evidence that U.S. companies' foreign investments lead to more investment at home too, as they expand the research and development and administrative work at their headquarters to support their global expansion.

All of the other major industrialized nations have recognized the domestic benefits that multinationals can bring, and they no longer attempt (or have agreed to stop trying) to tax income that their companies earn outside their borders. Washington has to recognize that multinational companies move jobs and factories to lower-cost countries for many reasons and that making its tax code more punitive to foreign investment won't reverse that process. Instead, it's more likely to drive more of those corporations out of the U.S. or into the arms of foreign suitors. There are better ways to encourage multinationals to invest here and to reduce the distortions caused by unequal global tax rates—for example, by broadening the corporate tax base and reducing rates so they're more competitive internationally, or by improving U.S. workers' skills. Obama's proposal, however, is more about populism than effective tax reform.

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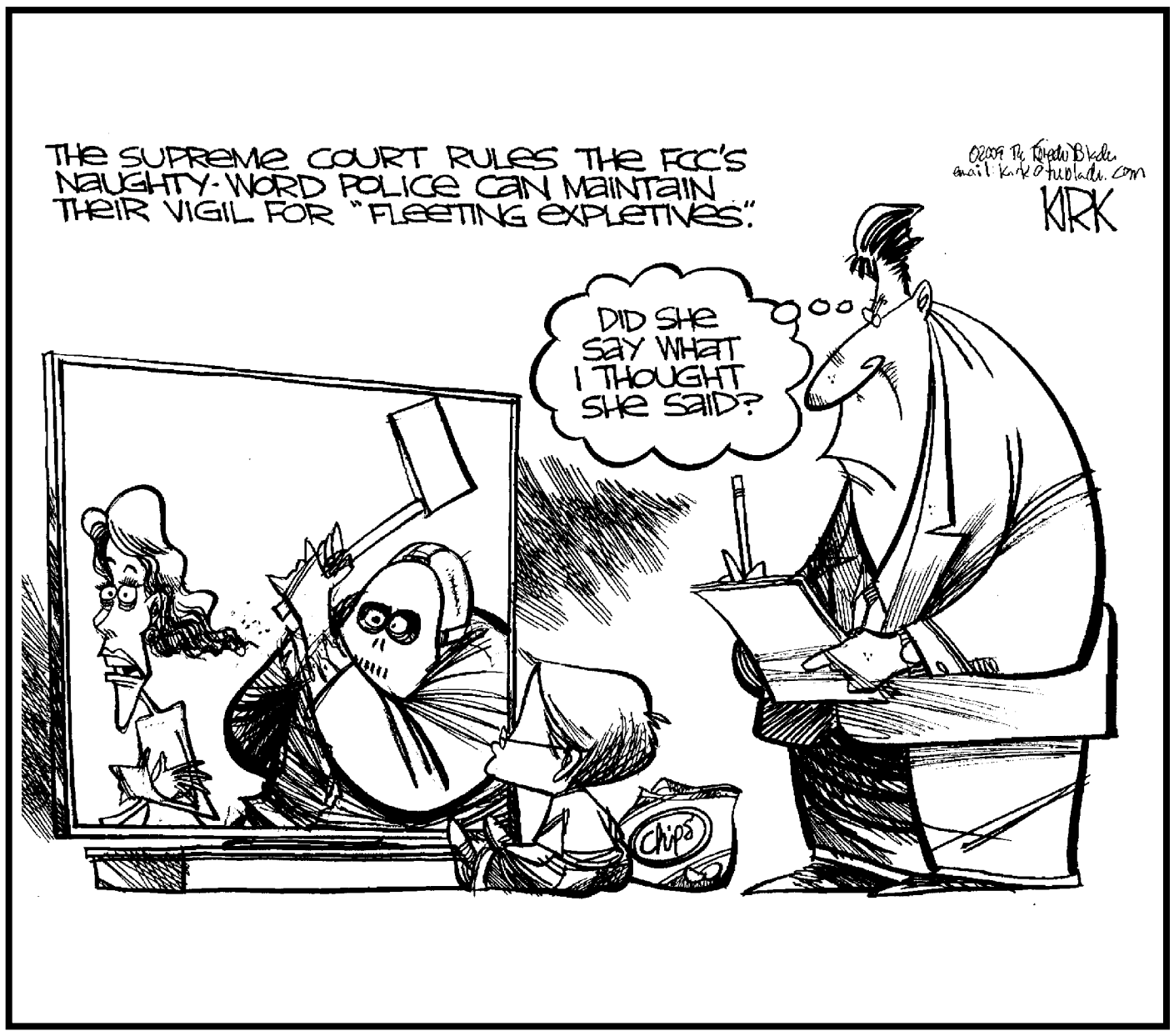
THE SUPREME COURT RULES THE FCC'S NAUGHTY-WORD POLICE CAN MAINTAIN THEIR VIGIL FOR "FLEETING EXPLETIVES."
DID SHE SAY WHAT I THOUGHT SHE SAID?
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Living in the lap of necessity

By MEGHAN DAUM
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

My 20s were so lacking in creature comforts, I could have been in a Dickens novel. What a bedraggled waif I was, living in a grimy New York apartment with no dishwasher, no air conditioner and no on-site laundry facilities. Like most Manhattanites, I didn't have a car, nor did I have a television set, although that was mostly because I was incredibly pretentious and wanted to convey the (false) notion that I was the kind of person who spent all evening—often, alas, at the laundromat—reading Ibsen plays.

Those days are over, thank God. Now that I've traded the pseudo-intellectual, quasi-ascetic affectations of my protracted adolescence for the unapologetic consumerism of early middle age—in other words, now that I no longer live in New York—I enjoy an array of household conveniences. Instead of dragging my laundry along block after block of filthy sidewalks, I can take my clothes directly off my body and deposit them into my very own washing machine (and then, in a magnificent coda, my very own dryer). I also have a dishwasher, a cell phone, wireless Internet and satellite cable service that's so advanced that accidentally sitting on the remote can cause entire air-traffic-control systems to reset. Tragically, I still don't have air conditioning, which is why I'm in a bad mood six months of the year, but I do have a car, which I often use to get to places to which I could easily walk.

Does that make me spoiled? As an American, I'm pretty much spoiled by default (even in my wretched, substandard days in New York, I still ate brie; I just had to wash the plate by hand). A new survey by the Pew Research Center suggests the real difference between a luxury and a necessity has dawned on Americans—and, as a result, we may be getting less spoiled.

In a telephone survey of 1,003 people conducted in early April, only 21 percent said a dishwasher was a necessity, and 66 percent said a clothes dryer was a necessity. When the same questions were asked in 2006, 35 percent considered dishwashers indispensable and 83 percent thought the same of dryers. Other items that now seem less than absolutely necessary include microwave ovens (down 21 percentage points from 2006), home air conditioning (down 16 points) and cable or satellite TV (down 10 points).

Pew researchers made a point of saying that some of the findings were because of new technology supplanting old, particularly among younger people. In other words, while older people tend to view things such as land-line phones and television sets as necessities, younger people favor cell phones and computers. Televisions (as in TV sets) were deemed necessary by only 52 percent of those surveyed. Not only is that a 12-percentage-point drop from 2006, it's the smallest vote for TV set necessity since Pew first posed the question in 1973, undoubtedly because more people now watch TV on computers and other digital gadgets.

Even so, the ratings drop looks promising for Ibsen—OK, maybe Dan Brown—and can-do-without Americans. But if you think a brave new frugality must be sweeping the nation—and flying its flag in the form of a thousand undershirts hanging from backyard clotheslines—think again. The question the survey-takers posed about each of these items was not, "Are you willing to live without a dishwasher/clothes dryer/cell phone?" It was, "Do you pretty much think of this as a necessity or pretty much think of this as a luxury you could do without?"

Uh, no to the first; yes to the second?

Part of what's so perverse—yet perversely endearing—about American consumerism is the way we don't allow luxury to preclude necessity. Just because we don't technically need something doesn't mean we can't convince ourselves that we'd die without it. There's a reason the statistic about more American households having TVs than indoor plumbing has been floating around for decades (although more recent Census data show indoor toilets gaining a slight edge over TVs, perhaps because people realized they could put a TV in the bathroom). It's because we define luxuries as being in the eye of the beholder (if watching "Wheel of Fortune" has more value than a flush toilet, hey, no judgments) and we hold as self-evident that some of them fall into a category all their own: necessary luxuries.

That may be an oxymoron, not to mention evidence that we may be a nation of morons. But acquiring things we don't need and then coming to rely on them as if they were as essential as air and water isn't just about affluence, it's about our national identity. For better or worse, it's something that makes us who we are.

Reading Ibsen in the laundromat? That's downright un-American. So the next time you hear folks agreeing that they could do without their clothes dryers, don't believe it. They're either lying or they're incredibly pretentious. Or they're in a Dickens novel and should get out of New York. Drive, don't walk.

Daum is an essayist and novelist in Los Angeles. E-mail Daum at mdaum@latimescolumnists.com.

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Torture trials

It is an interesting legal question: Can a Spanish criminal court prosecute U.S. officials for laying the groundwork for the torture of Spanish citizens held at Guantanamo Bay? A Spanish judge, Baltasar Garzon, has ordered an inquiry into whether six senior Bush administration officials were responsible for "an authorized and systematic plan for torture," according to a court document. *Los Angeles Times* editorial writer Marjorie Miller asked British barrister and law professor Philippe Sands, author of the book *Torture Team: Rumsfeld's Memo and the Betrayal of American Values*, to explain the legal underpinnings of such a procedure.

Sands

Question: The Spanish case targets the government lawyers—including former Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales—whose legal opinions laid the groundwork for so-called harsh interrogations. Why the lawyers?

Answer: When the administration decided to move to aggressive techniques, it seems they turned to lawyers who could be relied upon to sign on. They systematically excluded from the process those lawyers who would have given contrary advice. But for the lawyers, these abuses, this torture, would not have happened.

Q: So the administration got bad advice from lawyers; they didn't have to take it. Why does that make the lawyers guilty?

A: The lawyers appear to have been part of a plan to subvert the law. First the administration fixed on a policy of cruelty, then they found the lawyers to sign off on it. On my reading, the lawyers acted not in the service of providing fearless, independent legal advice, but provided support to a predetermined policy of abuse. In that way, they became complicit in a policy of torture.

Q: Is there legal precedent in going after the lawyers?

A: There is legal precedent. The precedent includes U.S. military tribunals in Germany in the 1940s. More recently, you've got actions in Britain, Spain and the United States where lawyers, for example, designed money-laundering schemes intended to subvert rules that criminalize money laundering. There are plenty of cases to show that, where lawyers act in a way to subvert the rules, they can themselves become complicit in crime.

Q: Still, why not the torturers or the top political leaders?

A: I focused on the lawyers because I wanted to understand the circumstances in which they became complicit, but of course it goes even higher. As of April 29, the case in Spain has taken a broader and more extensive turn. Judge Baltasar Garzon will look at the Bush Six and all those individuals who bear responsibility for the policy of torture and abuse. The case will look not just at the "framers of the legal decision," as President Barack Obama put it. It will look at those higher up and perhaps also those lower down who contributed to the implementation of the decision.

Q: Why is Spain involved?

A: It is based on abuse allegedly meted out on five Spanish nationals or residents. The legal basis in Spanish law is the prohibition under the 1984 Torture Convention and of the Geneva Conventions of torture and of inhuman and degrading treatment. The United States is a party to those treaties and, therefore, is bound by its commitments. The complaint is based squarely on these international laws, as well as Spanish laws.

Q: Would legal action in the U.S. take precedence over the Spanish case?

A: That's a crucial question. I have no doubt that if the United States were to carry out its own investigation, foreign judges would back off. The question, therefore, is what sort of investigation would achieve that objective? Does it have to be a formal criminal investigation, or could it be a congressional or other inquiry that might have the power to make certain recommendations? I think it's an open question, but the reality is that if the Obama administration were to give a green light to a full non-criminal inquiry, a sort of blue-ribbon truth commission that some have proposed, and if that group had the power to make recommendations as to whether crimes were committed, it would probably have the effect of suspending foreign investigations, at least until it announced its conclusions.

Q: Why did you take on this issue?

A: I am a lawyer. I teach international law, but I am also a practicing lawyer. I spend half my time advising governments on issues, some of which are extremely sensitive. I see my role as a lawyer to advise government what the limits of their actions are: to help them achieve what they want to achieve, but not just to sign on the dotted line. I am acutely aware of the responsibility of lawyers. What the documents that emerged suggested to me was that those lawyers had abdicated their professional responsibilities. I wanted to understand how that happened. I could not understand how these lawyers essentially had rubber-stamped a policy of cruelty. In my view, they had ceased to act as lawyers.

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Memo to bishops: No one is listening

By THOMAS J. REESE
Special to The Washington Post

Thomas J. Reese, S.J., is Senior Fellow at Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University. This article is excerpted from The Washington Post*'s "On Faith" blog.*

WASHINGTON—During the 2008 presidential campaign, there was a steady drumbeat of opposition to Barack Obama from some U.S. Catholic bishops, which only increased after his election. But despite the attention these attacks received in the media and on Internet blogs, polls show that the Catholic people are not listening.

The president has been criticized:

■ for being the most pro-abortion president ever, even though he wants to develop programs that will reduce the number of abortions while keeping it legal under most circumstances (he supports restrictions in the third trimester with an exception for the health of the mother);

■ for allowing organizations that do abortions outside the U.S. to receive government funds, even though the funds cannot be used for abortions but only for non-abortion-related activities such as health care and birth control;

■ for proposing to revise the Bush Administratin regulations dealing with stem cell research, even though the proposed revisions are less radical than many anticipated (no cloning is allowed and only stem cells from IVF embryos that would otherwise be discarded can be used; plus the informed consent rules are tightened);

■ for proposing to revise the Bush regulations that allow conscientious objection in health care, even though it is clear from the law that the revised regulations cannot require doctors, nurses or hospitals to perform abortions;

■ and for supporting the Freedom of Choice Act, even though everyone in Congress says FOCA is going nowhere (it has not even been introduced in this Congress) and the President has said it is not one of his priorities (which is the equivalent of deep-sixing it).

These critiques seem to be falling on deaf ears.

In the presidential election, Catholics voted for Obama, and Hispanic Catholics, who are a growing percentage of U.S. Catholics, gave him around two-thirds of their vote. Since the election, Obama has continued to do as well if not better with Catholics in the polls.

Nor are Catholics listening to those bishops who have condemned Notre Dame University for inviting the President to speak at its commencement this month. According to a Pew Forum poll, 48 percent of Catholics have not even heard of the controversy. And when asked whether it was right or wrong for Notre Dame to invite Obama to speak and to give him an honorary degree, 50 percent of Catholics said it was right and only 28 percent said it was wrong.

What is wrong? Why are the bishops not being listened to?

Many think they lost their credibility because of the sex abuse crisis. Others say it was even earlier when the laity rejected the hierarchy's opposition to artificial birth control.

I think part of the problem is that the bishops stopped listening and teaching and started ordering and condemning. With an educated laity it no longer works to simply say, "it is the teaching of the church." This is the equivalent of a parent shouting, "Because I said so."

The bishops must persuade and convince with arguments, not by turning up the volume. When they resort to commanding and threatening punishments, people are turned off. Banning speakers, denying Communion, silencing theologians is a sign of weakness not strength. Censorship and violations of academic freedom come across as admissions that their arguments are not convincing and therefore the opposition must be silenced.

The result is that the sales of books go up after a theologian is condemned. Obama's Notre Dame speech will be covered by every cable news channels. Even movie producers understand this dynamic, which is why "Angels and Demons" is having its world premier in Rome and is just begging the Vatican to condemn it.

The bishops are being egged on by Republican activists whose presidential candidate lost the election. There is clearly a conservative conspiracy to do whatever is possible (including lying about ambassadorial candidates) to create conflict between the Catholic Church and the Obama administration. They want the Catholic Church to be the Republican Party at prayer. Some bishops are falling for this.

But the Vatican is not falling into this trap. It clearly wants to have a positive relationship with Obama. The Pope sent him a congratulatory note after his election, although it is normal Vatican protocol not to do this until after the inauguration. Recently, an article in *L'Osservatore Romano* stated that the first 100 days of the Obama administration have not confirmed the Catholic Church's worst fears about radical policy changes in ethical areas. No American bishop has been brave or honest enough to say this.

The best Vatican journalists John Allen of the *National Catholic Reporter* and John Thavis of *Catholic News Service* could find no evidence of an anti-Obama sentiments from the Pope or the Vatican Secretariat of State. The Vatican has had centuries of experience working with governments where they agree and talking to them about those issues where they disagree.

The bishops who oppose the President's presence at Notre Dame are going to be embarrassed by the warm welcome he receives from the commencement audience. Every round of applause will be a repudiation of their condemnations.

The bishops will also be embarrassed when Pope Benedict welcomes President Obama at the Vatican, or are all these people going to tell the Pope that he cannot talk to a pro-choice President?

Letter to the Editor

Clarification about uniform issue

This is in response to the comments made by the manager of the Senior League JETS, Mr. Darren Flores, regarding the protest made by the Lion King manager, Mrs. Dolores Emul, with regard to the JETS not in compliance with the CNMI Little League Baseball Association Local Rules and Regulation, in particular with the uniform violation.

On May 2, 2009, at approximately 4pm the game started with the Lion Kings at bat. In the third inning, the Lion King manager noticed that the pitcher of the JETS was not in proper uniform. At this time, Mrs. Emul informed the chief umpire, Mr. Bob Guerrero, about the improper use of uniform. As per regulation, every manager is responsible for making sure his/her players are wearing their proper uniform during the game. As soon as the chief umpire was informed of this, he immediately called the player who was not wearing the proper uniform with his manager to ask why he was not using his assigned uniform. The player, Tobey Fleming responded, "I forgot it at home." His response to the question clearly shows that the JETS as a team were not in proper uniform.

Just as soon as the chief umpire confirmed the Lion King manager's allegation about the uniform violation, he immediately called for an official time out to bring the matter to the board members and the president of the CNMI Little League Association. After their deliberation about the matter, the board with the president Mr. Mike Borja made a decision to award the game to the Lion Kings. On Tuesday evening, May 5, 2009, Mr. Darren Flores stated in his comment on the 6pm news that the uniform used by his player was in fact a factory defect. This is the opposite of what the player actually said when the chief umpire asked him during the game. Mr. Flores also stated that his team does not deserve the loss. His comment had a negative impact on the Lion King's reputation. The Lion Kings clearly played by the rules and won by the rules. As managers we play a very important role in the game. The rules are made to be abided by each members of the League and have a critical part in every sport.

In Mr. Mike Borja's comment during the last part of the interview, he mentioned that the Lion King manager protested the game and that all teams wants to climb to the top. As we all know every team's goal is to be on top but we still need to play fair and by the rules.

Dolores San Nicolas Emul
Lion King Manager

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

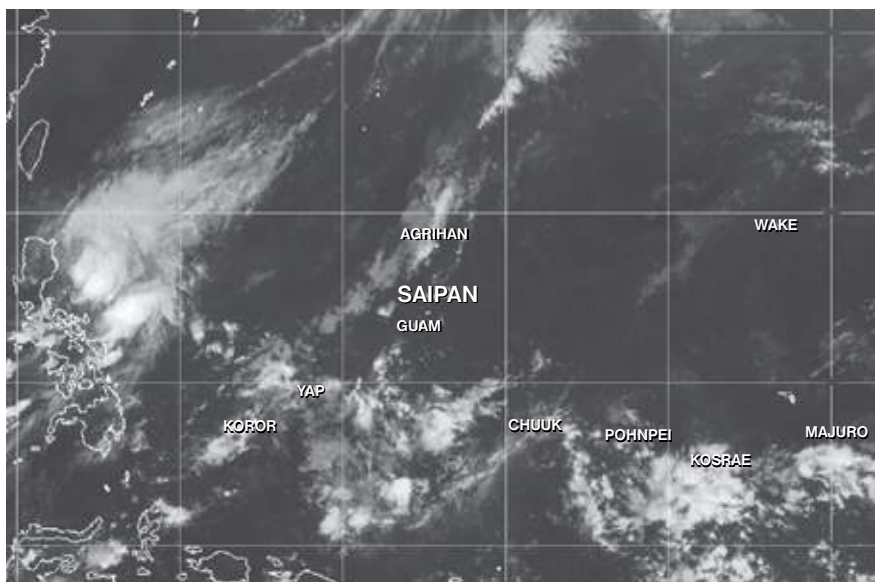
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼49
Beijing	Cloudy	▲75	▼57
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲82	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼72
London	Showers	▲59	▼41
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Manila	Rain	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲65	▼51
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼75
New York	Thundershowers	▲75	▼54
Osaka	Sunny	▲81	▼61
Paris	Showers	▲55	▼46
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼59
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼54
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲67	▼41
San Francisco	Sunny	▲66	▼50
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼53
Tokyo	Sunny	▲76	▼66
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲79	▼58

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging winds south of the remnants of Tropical Storm Kujira are generating a broken line of showers and isolated thunderstorms within 40 miles of a line from 25N148E to 16N141E. A surface trough extends northwestward to a weak circulation centered at 3N147E southwest of Chuuk and then northward ending at 10N145E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located between 9N and 4N from 140E to 146E. Trade-wind convergence is causing of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across a large area of the southern Marshall Islands and eastern Micronesia in an area enclosed by a line from Pohnpei to Kosrae to 7N and the date line southward along the date line to 2N to EQ160E back to Pohnpei. Another area of trade-convergence exists east of Chuuk forming a line of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 45 miles of a line from 8N153E to 1N156E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:44 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
6:45 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:05 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:01 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:44 PM	5:26 AM
Sunday	7:38 PM	6:12 AM
Monday	8:32 PM	7:01 AM
Tuesday	9:23 PM	7:52 AM
Wednesday	10:11 PM	8:44 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service, Koblerville
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 9, 2000

PCB screening begins
Seventy-year-old Frank Q. Aguon lived in Tanapag village where the electric capacitors were used as fence in front of his house. Unaware that the capacitors contained 100 percent PCB oil as well as the dangers posed by the highly toxic chemical, Mr. Aguon said he just ignored the sight of some of the capacitors leaking. After learning about the health hazards brought about by exposure to PCB, Mr. Aguon went to the newly-opened village clinic for medical screening. The clinic, which was set up by the Department of Public Health, will conduct a health evaluation of all people who have lived in Tanapag as well as conduct a special blood testing to determine the PCB level in their bodies. "I have been waiting for this to happen. I want my children to come here too because I have been worried about our health for many years now," he said.

Man who duped businessman faces fraud charges
The Federal Bureau of Investigation has uncovered an alleged scheme that gypped a Saipan-based businessman of his $130,000 by promising to double his investments by counterfeiting hundred dollar bills. The suspect, Andre Didier Tella from the central African nation of Cameroon, is now facing wire fraud charge before the U.S. District Court here after Shi Cheng Ke complained to the police. Mr. Tella, a 31-year-old tourist from Yuande, Cameroon who arrived on the island last April 4, is also facing a separate charge of theft by deception before the local Superior Court. He appeared yesterday before District Court Judge Alex R. Munson who set no bail for his release.

May 8, 2001

Revenues in five-year low
The CNMI government has reported a five-year low in the amount of revenues generated from taxes during the financial year 2000, as expenditures went up from the previous year. Government earnings in the last fiscal year was the lowest since 1996, according to a report obtained from the CNMI Department of Commerce. Official finance department statistics, quoted in the Fourth Quarter Economic Indicators report, showed that government expenditures went up by $1.3 million last year to $221.6 million. In Fiscal Year 1999, the cost of operating the government was only about $220.3 million.

Gov't workers paying higher premium rates
The NMI Retirement Fund recently introduced a comprehensive insurance coverage and higher premium rates after signing an agreement with an independent insurance firm last month. Group Health and Life Insurance Manager Dolores Moore yesterday disclosed that Individual Assurance Company representatives are on island to conduct routine orientation. The routine orientation was aimed at educating retirees and government employees about the new premium rates and the health program's wider scope. Government employees went to the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday to attend workers' orientation program administered by IAC-CNMI Manager Donald C. Barcinas.

May 8, 2002

Will Mabuhay go Hafa Adai?
A Northern Marianas delegation will leave today for the Philippines to negotiate the resumption of direct Manila-Saipan flights with top executives of the country's flag carrier. Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas will be leaving with Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, Marianas Visitors Authority acting Managing Director Vicky Benavente, and CPA Board Member Roman Tudela. The CNMI delegation will discuss the possible resumption of Philippine Airlines' nonstop flights between Saipan and Manila with airline executives headed by PAL Vice President for Sales and Marketing David Lim.

Senate rallies behind Tenorio in influencing minimum wage bill
Responding to Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio's call for support in signifying the CNMI's willingness to adopt the American Samoa tiered wage system, Senate President Paul A. Manglona said he immediately faxed such a support letter on behalf of the Senate. He added, though, that the upper chamber would still come up with a resolution, expressing the sense of support for the adoption of the tiered minimum wage system in the Commonwealth. "He [Tenorio] said it was urgent so I responded right away," Manglona said. "We will come out with a resolution regarding this but I did the letter first because of the urgency.

Business

Banks' 'stress test' lift cloud of uncertainty

WASHINGTON (AP)—Government exams of the nation's biggest banks have helped lift a cloud of uncertainty that has hung over the economy.

The so-called stress tests—a key Obama administration effort to boost confidence in the financial system—showed nine of the 19 biggest banks have enough capital to withstand a deeper recession. Ten must raise a total of $75 billion in new capital to withstand possible future losses.

"The publication of the stress tests simply cleared the air of uncertainty," said Allen Sinai, chief global economist at Decision Economics. "The results were not scary at all."

He said it will take a long time for the banks to resume normal lending. But the test results didn't alter his prediction that economy is headed for a recovery in October or November.

A key indicator of economic health will be released Friday morning, when the government announces how many more jobs were lost in April and how high the unemployment rate rose.

The stress tests have been criticized as a confidence-building exercise whose relatively rosy outcome was inevitable. But the information, which leaked out all week, was enough to cheer investors. They pushed bank stocks higher Wednesday, and rallied again in after-hours trading late Thursday once the results had been released.

Among the 10 banks that need to raise more capital, Bank of America Corp. needs by far the most—$33.9 billion. Wells Fargo & Co. needs $13.7 billion, GMAC LLC $11.5 billion, Citigroup Inc. $5.5 billion and Morgan Stanley $1.8 billion.

The five other firms found to need more of a capital cushion are all regional banks—Regions Financial Corp. of Birmingham, Ala.; SunTrust Banks Inc. of Atlanta; KeyCorp of Cleveland; Fifth Third Bancorp of Cincinnati; and PNC Financial Services Group Inc. of Pittsburgh.

The banks will have until June 8 to develop a plan and have it approved by their regulators. If they can't raise the money on their own, the government said it's prepared to dip further into its bailout fund.

The stress tests are a big part of the Obama administration's plan to fortify the financial system. As home prices fell and foreclosures increased, banks took huge hits on mortgages and mortgage-related securities they were holding.

The government hopes the stress tests will restore investors' confidence that not all banks are weak, and that even those that are can be strengthened. They have said none of the banks will be allowed to fail.

Among the banks that the government did not ask to raise more capital were JPMorgan Chase & Co., brokerage house Goldman Sachs Group Inc., insurer MetLife Inc. and credit card companies Capital One Financial Corp. and American Express Co.

Together, the 19 firms that took the test hold two-thirds of the assets and half the loans in the U.S. banking system.

Layoffs might ease, but firms in no mood to hire

WASHINGTON (AP)—Employers are letting up a bit on the mass layoffs they resorted to earlier this year to cope with the recession, but the unemployment rate is climbing because many businesses remain wary of hiring given all the economic and financial uncertainties.

The Labor Department on Friday is slated to release a report expected to show that a net total of 620,000 jobs were lost in April. If analysts are correct, the figure—while still big—would be an improvement from March's 663,000 job losses and mark the fewest reductions since November.

The deepest job cuts of the recession, which started in December 2007 and is now the longest since World War II, came in January: 741,000 jobs vanished then, the most since the fall of 1949.

"I think the worst has passed in terms of losses," said John Silvia, economist at Wachovia. "But the jobs situation will remain tough."

With few places for the out-of-work to land, the unemployment rate is expected to jump to 8.9 percent, from 8.5 percent in March. If that happens, it would mark the highest jobless rate since the fall of 1983, when the country was recovering from a severe recession that drove unemployment past 10 percent.

As the recession eats into sales and profits, companies have turned to layoffs and other cost-cutting measures to survive the storm. Those including holding down workers' hours, and freezing or cutting pay.

Looking ahead, economists expect monthly job losses continuing for most—if not all—of this year. However, they are hoping the reductions won't be as deep.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke earlier this week gave his most optimistic prediction yet about the end of the recession, saying he expects the economy to start growing again this year—although the comeback could be weak and more jobs will disappear even after a recovery takes hold.

Nation

Drew Peterson indicted in 3rd wife's death

LOCKPORT, Ill. (AP)—Drew Peterson, the brash, mustachioed former police sergeant who found tabloid fame after his fourth wife's disappearance more than 1 1/2 years ago, was indicted Thursday in the drowning of an ex-wife found dead in an empty bathtub in 2004.

Peterson

Peterson, charged with first-degree murder in the death of Kathleen Savio, was arrested during an evening traffic stop near his Bolingbrook home and was being held on $20 million bond, Illinois State Police Captain Carl Dobrich said.

"We are very confident in our case," Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow said.

Savio's body was found in a dry bathtub, hair soaked in blood from a head wound, just before the couple's divorce settlement was finalized. Her death initially was ruled an accidental drowning, but authorities later said it was a homicide staged to look like an accident.

The indictment alleges that "Peterson on or about Feb. 29, 2004 ... caused Kathleen Savio to inhale fluid," causing her death.

Savio's family has long voiced suspicions, saying she feared Peterson and told relatives if she died it wouldn't be an accident. Their fears resurfaced after the October 2007 disappearance of Stacy Peterson, then 23.

Drew Peterson, 55, is a suspect in the disappearance, which police have called a possible homicide, but he has not been charged. He repeatedly has said he thinks Stacy Peterson ran off with another man.

Flu overhyped? Some say officials 'cried swine'

CHICAGO (AP)—Did government health officials "cry swine" when they sounded the alarm on what looked like a threatening new flu? The so-far mild swine flu outbreak has many people saying all the talk about a devastating global epidemic was just fear-mongering hype. But that's not how public health officials see it, calling complacency the thing that keeps them up at night.

The World Health Organization added a scary-sounding warning Thursday, predicting up to 2 billion people could catch the new flu if the outbreak turns into a global epidemic.

Many blame such alarms and the breathless media coverage for creating an overreaction that disrupted many people's lives.

Schools shut down, idling even healthy kids and forcing parents to stay home from work; colleges scaled back or even canceled graduation ceremonies; a big Cinco de Mayo celebration in Chicago was canned; face masks and hand sanitizers sold out—all because of an outbreak that seems no worse than a mild flu season.

Obama touts $17 billion 'lot of money' budget cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama sent Congress a detailed budget Thursday boasting of cutting or killing 121 federal programs in a belt-tightening he likened to that of most Americans in difficult times. But the trims amounted to a tiny fraction of the new spending he wants, and some have already been nixed by allies on Capitol Hill.

Obama said his cuts would amount to $17 billion—in a budget totaling well over $3 trillion for the fiscal year that begins in October. He's estimating the government's red ink will still be about $1.2 trillion, down only slightly from this year's all-time record.

Republicans scoffed that Obama's cuts were not nearly enough. "They appear to be a diversionary tactic—an effort to change the subject away from the unprecedented debt this budget heaps on future generations," said House Republican Leader John Boehner of Ohio.

On the other hand, some of Obama's proposed trims are recycled from George W. Bush's hit list and won't be popular with some Democrats. For instance, he proposed ending a $400 million-a-year program that pays states and counties for keeping illegal immigrants in their jails—a Bush idea rejected previously by the Democratic-controlled Congress.

ACROSS THE NATION

Calif. wildfire burns 75 homes in Santa Barbara

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—Paradise is not lost, but it's in flames—again. The seasonal wildfires that menace this idyllic coastal city roared to life earlier than usual but with all-too-familiar ferocity, damaging or destroying 75 homes and forcing about 12,000 people to flee. "I knew it was time to leave," said Tom Morse, 62, a day after he dusted off his motorhome as the fire neared his Mission Canyon Heights house. "I could see the flames getting close." The fire was just the latest to ravage the area known as the American Riviera, home to screen stars, former presidents and Oprah Winfrey. The blaze reached the burn area of another wildfire that just six months ago destroyed about 200 homes in Santa Barbara and Montecito.

Police: Suspect in Conn. college killing arrested

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (AP)—A man who Connecticut police say sparked two fearful days at a university by killing a student and threatening a campus shooting spree surrendered Thursday night after seeing his photo in a newspaper. Stephen P. Morgan, 29, was taken into custody about 9:15 p.m. after stopping at a Cumberland Farms convenience store in Meriden, about 10 miles from the Wesleyan University campus. Clerk Sonia Rodriguez told The Associated Press that she didn't recognize Morgan when he came in and scanned the newspapers. He asked to use the phone but had trouble dialing, so he asked Rodriguez to dial the police department for him.

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World

WHO says up to 2 billion people might get swine flu

GENEVA (AP)—Up to 2 billion people could be infected by swine flu if the current outbreak turns into a pandemic lasting two years, the World Health Organization said Thursday.

WHO flu chief Keiji Fukuda said the historical record of flu pandemics indicates one-third of the world's population gets infected in such outbreaks. Independent experts agreed that the estimate was possible but pointed out that many would not show any symptoms.

In Mexico, the hardest hit country so far, high schools and universities opened for the first time in two weeks as the government's top health official insisted the epidemic is on the decline. All students were checked for swine flu symptoms and some were sent home.

"If we do move into a pandemic, then our expectation is that we will see a large number of people infected worldwide," Fukuda said. "If you look at past pandemics, it would be a reasonable estimate to say perhaps a third of the world's population would get infected with this virus."

With the current total population of more than 6 billion, that would mean an infection total of 2 billion, he said, but added that the world has changed since pandemics of earlier generations, and experts are unable to predict if the impact will be greater or smaller.

"We don't really know." said Fukuda. "This is a benchmark from the past. Please do not interpret this as a prediction for the future."

Chris Smith, at flu virologist at Cambridge University in England, said the 2 billion estimate was possible.

"That doesn't sound too outlandish to me for the simple reason that this is a very infectious virus," Smith told The Associated Press. "You're talking about a virus that no one in the population has seen before and therefore everyone is immunologically vulnerable. Therefore it's highly likely that once it starts to spread, people will catch it. And since the majority of the world's population are in contact with one another, you're going to get quite a lot of spread."

WORLD BRIEFS

NKorea vows to bolster nuclear arsenal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea vowed Friday to bolster its atomic arsenal in response to what it called Washington's "persistent hostile policy," even as a special envoy for President Barack Obama traveled to the region in a bid to draw Pyongyang back to nuclear negotiations. Envoy Stephen Bosworth, speaking in Beijing before heading to Seoul on Friday, said Washington is ready and willing to talk directly with Pyongyang. "The United States reiterates its desire to engage both multilaterally and bilaterally with North Korea," Bosworth told reporters after holding talks with senior Chinese officials Thursday. "We believe very strongly that the solution to the tensions and problems of the area now lies in dialogue and negotiation."

Terror suspect who fled Singapore held in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A militant leader suspected of a Sept. 11-style plot to crash a hijacked plane has been arrested in Malaysia, more than a year after his dramatic escape from a high-security jail in Singapore, officials said Friday. Mas Selamat Kastari was arrested with the cooperation of Singaporean, Malaysian and Indonesian intelligence agencies, Home Minister Hishamuddin Hussein told reporters. "Mas Selamat is under our detention and being investigated right now. He was planning something," Hishamuddin said. He refused to give details, and also would not say if Mas Selamat would be handed over to Singapore, where he had been jailed.

Brazilians flee anacondas, alligators amid floods

CORIMATA DA CIMA, Brazil (AP)—The dirt road that runs in front of her house is a river. Her fields of rice and manioc lie ruined underwater. And with water seeping into her mud-brick, thatched-roof home, Maria do Remedio Santos knows it's time to join her neighbors. Like 218,000 others across a swath of northern Brazil three times the size of Alaska, the neighbors have fled the worst rainfall and flooding in decades, braving newly formed rivers teeming with anacondas, alligators and legless reptiles known as "worm lizards" whose bite is excruciating. They have made their way into shelters, some of which are already packed with people, pets and livestock with little food or medical supplies. Others stayed in stables. But Santos said Thursday there is no other choice for the nine people—relatives and neighbors—camped out in her shack.

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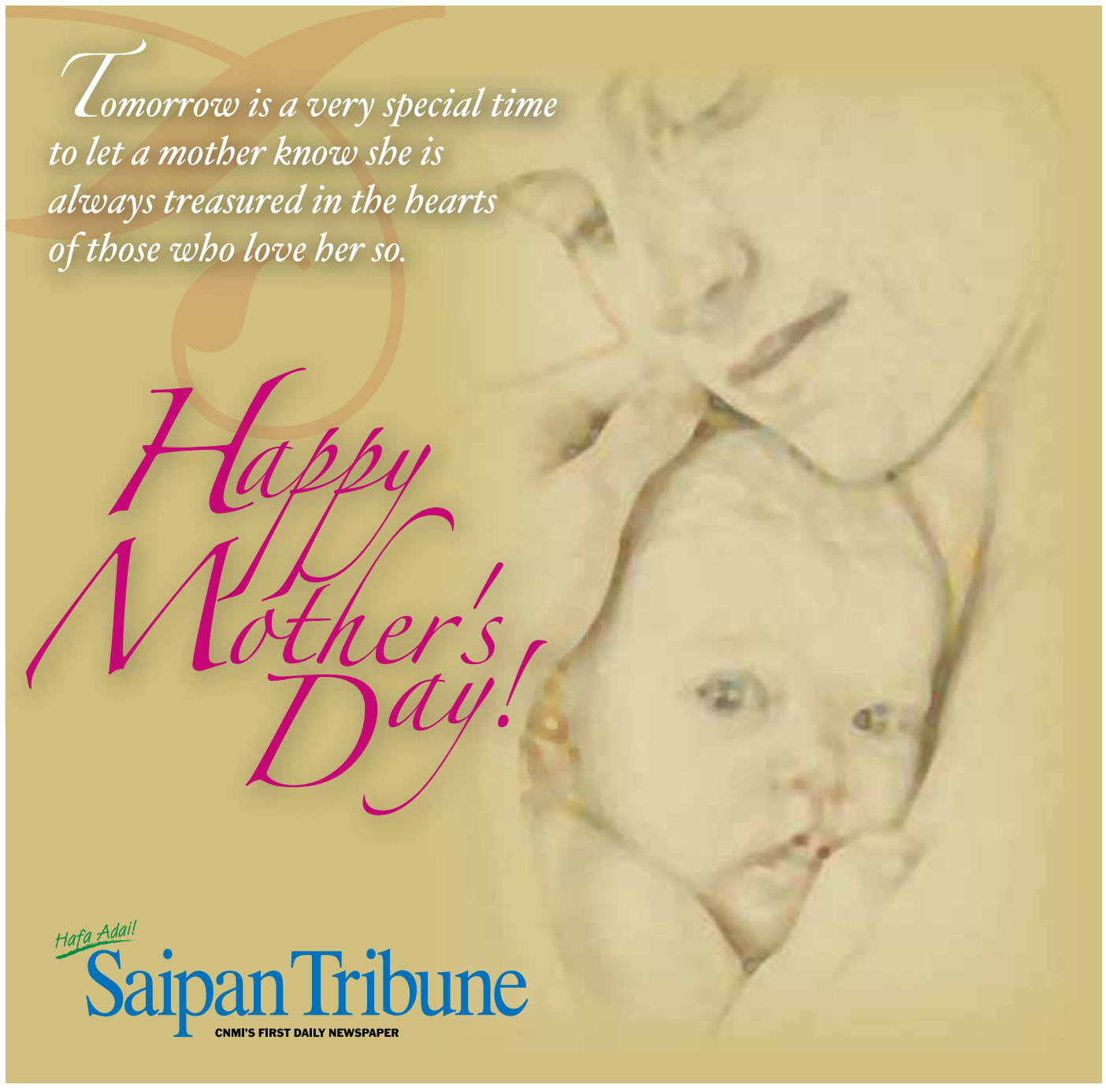
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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, May 9, 2009

Labor Day-OWWA anniversary celebration today

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Philippine Consulate General officials and guests will be hosting a joint celebration of Philippine Labor Day and the 27th anniversary of the Overseas Workers and Welfare Administration today at the Canton Restaurant in Garapan, Saipan.

The simple ceremony, which will start at 6pm, will be marked by the reading of special messages from top government officials, including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Consul General Wilfredo DL Maximo will read Arroyo's message while Labor Representative Joan Lourdes D. Lavilla will read the message of Labor Secretary Marianito D. Roque.

Welfare officer Reynaldo D. Tayag will read the message of OWWA Administrator Carmelita S. Dimzon.

Members of the United Filipino Organization will provide entertainment numbers during the celebration.

This year's theme for Labor Day is "Tayo Na, Trabaho Na" (Let's go work together). For OWWA, it's "27 Taong Patuloy na Serbisyo sa Expat Pinoy" (27 years of continuing service to Filipino expatriates).

Maximo

In a message, Maximo said this joint celebration is to honor the large number of Filipino workers in the CNMI.

"Albeit our celebration is a simple one, it does not diminish the recognition we have for the CNMI-based workers' contributions to our nation's strength and well-being," he said.

Maximo encouraged Filipino workers to value their present work, take good care of their finances and families back home, be mindful of the temporariness of overseas employment and to be ready for the life that comes after their work stint abroad.

Arroyo lauded Labor and OWWA management for actively complementing the thrusts of the government in boosting and facilitating opportunities for growth and in maintaining industrial harmony despite the temporary setbacks.

"Indeed the culture of excellence that our workers have exhibited, whether they are working at home or in more than 190 host destinations worldwide, is our best assurance that we will be able to weather this crisis," Arroyo said.

Dimzon said the negative impact of the global crisis on the OFW sector is a huge challenge but said that OWWA faces this with great resolve, "striving to mitigate the effects on its members and their families.

She assured that OWWA does not lose sight of the need to reinvent and re-skill workers.

"Entrepreneurial investments for livelihood are tapped as alternative opportunities to employment," Dimzon said.

She said that OWWA has put in place some safety nets, a set of benefits and social welfare programs for members and their beneficiaries. These include easy loans, scholarships, financial literacy and training support.

New POEA requirement for hiring OFWs

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan announced Thursday a new requirement for the hiring of overseas Filipino workers.

Employers or principals are now required to sign all pages of the employment contract along with the addendum to the employment contract if such is required or presented.

Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo said this additional requirement is based on a memorandum recently issued by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration concerning the facilitation of the registration and employment contracts for OFWs.

Maximo urged all employers and employer representatives to comply with this new requirement so as not to incur delays in the processing and verification of the employment contracts with the Philippine Overseas Labor Office here on Saipan.

He said this would eventually help employers in the processing of registration of these documents with POEA in the Philippines. *(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)*

Pinay couple get US Immigration reprieve

By MARCONI CALINDAS
CORRESPONDENT

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.— For lesbian couple Jay Mercado and Shirley Tan, home has always been where the heart is and their hearts right now are in Pacifica, a serene city in South San Francisco.

Mercado and Tan have been together for 23 years and have two 12-year-old twin sons. Yet their happy life as a couple recently came under a black cloud when Tan was almost deported back to the Philippines.

Tan was supposed to be deported on May 10 after a 2005 asylum request was denied. U.S. Immigration had apparently decided that Tan cannot receive residency under the current law because her partner, Mercado, is also female.

Mercado, a U.S. resident, told this reporter during a Filipino-American event in San Francisco Sunday night that she and Tan had filed for domestic partnership in 1991 and tied the knot in 2004. Their wedding was officiated in San Francisco.

This apparently was not enough for U.S. Immigration, which turned down her asylum bid. Tan had no idea that her asylum petition had been denied until federal agents took her away in handcuffs at the end of January, according to Mercado.

Thankfully, her case came to the attention of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), who introduced a private bill for Tan that would allow her to stay in the States for two years while Congress processes her case. In introducing the bill, Feinstein said that without it, "this family will be separated, or they will be relocated to a Third [World] country where Ms. Tan's safety and her children's well-being may be at risk."

MARCONI CALINDAS

Shirley Tan, left, with her partner Jay Mercado are all smiles during the recently held Babae-Gabriela event at the Bayanihan Community Center in San Francisco Sunday night.

Tan, 43, arrived in California in 1989 on a visitor's visa. Earlier reports said she applied for asylum in 1995 because she was afraid of a cousin back in the Philippines who killed her mother and sister and critically wounded her when she was a teenager.

"Right now we're happy and pleased with the outcome because she [Tan] can stay with us; and we don't have to be apart," said Mercado. She added that Tan's ordeal has strengthened their faith in God.

Mercado, 48, admitted that they could find themselves in the same situation again if the bill is allowed to expire at the end of congressional session in January 2011.

Currently, gay rights activists in the U.S. are using the couple's case to push for passage of a long-stalled immigration reform bill here in the U.S. known as the Uniting American Families Act that would provide gay Americans the right to sponsor foreign-born partners for residency.

Tan recalled her ordeal. "[The support of other gay couples] was very touching during those trying moments. We don't know what to think but our main purpose was just for me to stay here. We are a very close knit family."

Mercado said she and Tan are now focused on the passage of the bill and UAFA. "Our main purpose now is to pass UAFA because this will help a lot of people since there are over 36,000 bi-national couples [that are in the same boat]," she said.

Tan said, "There's hope and there's UAFA that we hope will eventually pass."

Before their case came to light, the couple said they didn't realize that there are other lesbian and gay couples who are facing immigration challenges.

Tan said she and Mercado are worried about their twins who were born in the U.S. and are American citizens.

Tan carried the twins through in vitro fertilization using Mercado's egg and a sperm donor.

LABOR FRONT

Conditions of workers' barracks

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: If an employer provides housing for his alien employees, what are the safety conditions of the housing units to be observed?

A: According to the new Regulations of the Alien Labor Law, every employer who provides housing for alien employees should see to it that the housing site is safe; the building structure for housing is safe; toilet facilities are safe; and laundry, hand-washing, and bathing facilities are safe.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: What kind of maintenance is needed to keep the grounds around the employer-provided housing units safe?

A: The regulations state that the grounds around the housing units should be adequately drained to prevent flooding, collection of waste water, and mosquito breeding. The grounds should be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, free of rubbish, debris, waste paper, garbage, and other refuse. The workers are responsible for assisting in this maintenance to the extent that they generate such refuse.

Whenever a housing unit is closed on a temporary or permanent basis, the employer should ensure that all garbage, waste, and other refuse is collected and disposed of. The grounds and housing units should also be left in a clean and sanitary condition.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: What are the important things that an employer needs to ensure to have a safe housing unit for his or her workers?

A: Each sleeping room in the housing units should contain at least 50 square feet of floor space for each occupant. At least a seven-foot ceiling should be provided.

Separate bedding, which may include bunks, should be provided for each occupant. Spacing of single bedding should not be closer than 36 inches both side-to-side and end-to-end. Elevation of single bedding should be at least 12 inches from the floor.

Where workers cook, live, and sleep in a single room, a minimum of 100 square feet per person should be provided.

Natural ventilation consisting of windows should be provided, the area of which should be not less than one-fourth the floor area of the living quarters. In lieu of natural ventilation, mechanical ventilation may be provided which shall supply at least 15 cubic feet of fresh air per person per minute.

An adequate and convenient water supply should be provided for drinking, cooking, bathing, and laundry purposes.

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Pacquiao arrives home

By IZAH MORALES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Boxing legend Manny Pacquiao defied a raging typhoon and a World Health Organization advisory amidst a global virus scare, and arrived home Friday morning to a warm welcome.

Pacquiao arrived at 6:38am on board Philippine Airlines Flight PR 103 from Los Angeles.

Clad in a white suit, he was escorted by his wife Jinkee, and the rest of Team Pacquiao, including Bernabe Concepcion who won in an undercard fight before Pacquiao's title bout with Ricky Hatton in Las Vegas.

Sons Michael and Jemuel, and daughter Princess were present at the airport to welcome their father.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Lito Atienza and his son Ali were also there to greet the boxing champ.

About 20 airport police K9s and a "light reaction unit" were deployed at the international arrival area, according to Manila International Airport Authority assistant general manager Tirso Serrano.

Pacquiao and his entourage passed through the airport's thermal scanners and were screened by doctors from the Bureau of Quarantine of the Department of Health.

In his arrival statement, Pacquiao said: "Maraming salamat sa inyo, taas noo tayong mga Pilipino kahit saan sulok ng mundo [Thanks to you, we are proud to be Filipinos wherever we go]," addressing hordes of media upon his arrival.

AP

Filipino boxing great Manny Pacquiao, left, and WBO featherweight champion Bernabe "Abe" Concepcion, pose before the media upon arrival in Manila, Philippines early Friday May 8, 2009 from Los Angeles.

Speculations have been circulating that Pacquiao plans to run for congressman in his hometown of General Santos City after the Commission on Elections early Thursday accredited the boxing icon's local political party, People's Champ Movement, which is expected to bolster his political ambitions in next year's elections.

Asked by a reporter about his political plans, Pacquiao answered: "Ayaw ko muna pag-usapan ang politika [Let's not talk about politics first]."

He then gave recognition to the victory of Bernabe Concepcion in the undercard.

"Salubungin din natin ng masigabong palakpakan si Bernabe. Alam nyo hindi lang ako ang nagbigay ng karangalan sa ating bansa pero yung mga undercard din katulad ni Bernabe [Let's also give a big hand to Bernabe. It was not only I who gave honor to our country but also those in the undercard like Bernabe]."

When asked why he decided to return early despite recommendations of the WHO and the DOH, Pacquiao said: "Mas lalong makakasama kung magstay ako doon. Mas safe kung uuwi ako dito sa Pilipinas [It will be worse if I stayed there. I feel a lot safer here]."

Typhoon weakens after killing 3 in RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A powerful typhoon dumped heavy rains, uprooted trees and left at least three people dead and three missing in a northern Philippine region still reeling from last week's deadly storm, officials said Friday.

Typhoon Cha-hom was packing maximum winds of 75 miles (120 kilometers) per hour when it made landfall in Pangasinan province north of Manila overnight, but then rapidly weakened into a tropical storm after crossing the mountains of Cordillera and Sierra Madre, forecasters said.

Two people were killed in a landslide in Kiangan town in Ifugao province, the site of mountainside rice terraces, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said.

Another person died of a heart attack, and three people were injured during the storm, while another three were reported missing, Teodoro said.

Several areas in Pangasinan were isolated because roads were flooded. Authorities moved hundreds of residents to safety, radio reports said.

Electricity in the area was cut but later restored.

In central Iloilo province, a passenger vessel ran aground amid strong winds and big waves but the coast guard rescued all 80 people aboard, Radio DZBB reported.

Another 1,000 passengers and 71 vessels were stranded in ports because of the storm, which forecasters said was moving east of the Philippines toward southern Japan.

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Militants holding Red Cross worker kill police

OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Al-Qaida-linked militants holding a kidnapped Italian Red Cross worker killed a southern Philippine provincial police chief and at least three other people in an ambush Thursday, officials said.

Sulu provincial police chief Julasirim Kasim, his brother and at least two officers were gunned down by Abu Sayyaf militants near Maimbung township on Jolo island, regional police chief Bensali Jabarani said. Four others were wounded.

Officers pursuing the attackers clashed with the gunmen, killing five of them and recovering their weapons, Jabarani said.

Jabarani said Kasim and the other officers were taking part in an ongoing operation to rescue Red Cross worker Eugenio Vagni of Italy. Vagni is the last of three Red Cross hostages still in the hands of the militants. They were kidnapped Jan. 15 on Jolo, which is part of Sulu.

Jabarani said Kasim had been en route to meet up with troops involved in the rescue operation.

Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan ordered the rescue effort last month after negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf for the release of Vagni failed and as the 62-year-old Red Cross worker's health continues to deteriorate in the jungle. Vagni is suffering from hypertension and needs surgery for a hernia.

Vagni and fellow Red Cross workers Andreas Notter of Switzerland and Filipino Mary Jean Lacaba were kidnapped after inspecting a Jolo jail water supply project.

Lacaba was freed April 2. Notter walked free more than two weeks later as police pursued the Abu Sayyaf members holding him.

Alain Aeschlimann, the Asia-Pacific operations chief of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has reported that Vagni was able to call his family last week.

"As ever, we remain very worried about Eugenio," he said in a statement last week. "We will spare no effort until Eugenio is free and the crisis resolved."

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Judge returns Jun Lozada to Senate custody

By TINA SANTOS, MICHAEL LIM UBAC
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—A Manila judge Thursday granted the Senate's bid to regain custody of whistle-blower Rodolfo Lozada Jr.

In a four-page ruling, Judge Jorge Emmanuel Lorredo of Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 26 ordered Lozada's transfer from the Manila Police District back to Senate custody for humanitarian considerations.

"It would be cruel and inhuman for this court to transfer accused to the city jail when there is reasonable ground to believe there is risk to his life there," the judge said.

"... In this particular case, the court is of the view that it is safest in the Senate, where the senators seem to be protecting him like a sort of national treasure, a treasure with valuable gems called truth," Lorredo said.

The Senate had filed an urgent ex-parte motion to have Lozada released on its recognizance while the perjury case filed against him by former presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor was being heard.

"Since it is actually because of the Senate that Jun Lozada has found himself in his current predicament... it is but proper that the Senate continues to ensure [his] safety by reasserting protective custody over him throughout the duration of the (NBN-ZTE) case," Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II had argued.

Clad in a green and white striped shirt, Lozada arrived in court at 8:30 a.m. accompanied by his lawyer, Jose Manuel Diokno, and Sr. Mary John Mananzan, co-chair of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP). His wife, Violet, and doctors from Medical Center Manila where he had been recently confined were also present.

Close to 100 people picketed outside the court building, carrying placards bearing messages of support for Lozada.

Hot, crowded courtroom

The small, cramped and non-air conditioned courtroom of Lorredo erupted in cheers after one of the court staff read the judge's ruling.

Those present, aside from Roxas, the nuns and members of civil society and militant groups who have been Lozada's constant companions, were Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo and Neri Colmenares, and former Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Appearing pale and weak and with an intravenous needle stuck in one hand, Lozada expressed relief on hearing the judge's order.

He said his return to Senate custody would put an end to the "abuses" he had been suffering.

"They are doing everything to abuse me. I do not want to legitimize their harassment of me," he told reporters.

"I'm grateful, happy. I wholeheartedly accept the Senate's help... if not for them really I would not be in this situation now," he said in Filipino, laughing.

TYPHOON PREPS AP

Workers secure a folded tarpaulin sign in anticipation of Typhoon Chan Hom Thursday, May 7, 2009 in Manila, Philippines. Large billboards are being removed to prevent them from being toppled by strong winds, which have killed several pedestrians during previous typhoons.

Cory Aquino leaves hospital

By FE ZAMORA
Philippine Daily Inquirer

MANILA, Philippines—Following a successful operation of her colon at the Makati Medical Center early this week, former President Corazon Aquino was discharged from the hospital yesterday and "is recuperating well," according to her only son, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino Jr.

Aquino

"Our mom is now sitting up and walking," the young Aquino said in a statement. "She has been advised by doctors to take an adequate rest for full recovery after the procedure."

She was discharged from the hospital at 5 p.m., according to Ballsy, one of her daughters.

The 76-year-old former president, who was diagnosed with cancer of the colon early last year, underwent a laparoscopic colectomy on Monday to remove a diseased portion of her large intestine.

Sen. Aquino said his mother was attended to by a team of 10 doctors, including Dr. Joel Leroy, a French surgeon.

"She was very appreciative of the excellent care and concern she has received from them, as well as from nurses and employees of the Makati Medical Center," the senator said.

On Wednesday, Ms Aquino's youngest child, Kris, said her mother had taken her first steps and had also resumed praying the rosary daily.

But the former president and People Power icon remained in isolation, with visitors limited to selected members of her immediate family.

2 boys cleared of swine flu

MANILA, Philippines—Two boys under observation for possible infection from the A/H1N1 influenza virus have been cleared, but four other people remain under observation for signs of the virus as of Thursday, Health Undersecretary Mario Villaverde said.

The boys, aged 12 and 9, who were confined at the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) in Alabang, Muntinlupa, after their arrival from South Korea, tested negative for the virus, Villaverde said.

The two were among the five cases under observation announced last Wednesday by Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.

The laboratory results for the three other cases are still pending, said Villaverde.

The three are a 32-year-old Filipino overseas worker who arrived from Ireland and a 26-year-old Caucasian woman who arrived from the United Kingdom, both of whom are confined at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu; and a 29-year-old Filipino who arrived from the United States and is now confined at the San Lazaro Hospital in Manila. ***(Inquirer.net)***

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY

Finding work in a tough job market

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I am an OFW who used to work as an account executive in the Middle East. Our company laid off some workers two months ago and I was one of those who were let go. Now I am back in the Philippines. Since then I have been trying to apply for a job but I am unsuccessful so far. Most of the jobs call for young people and only a few companies seem to entertain those who are in their 40s like me. How can I land a job? I need to earn money for my family.—Nita

Answer: Many people are in the same boat as you, Nita. Thousands of OFWs have lost their jobs as a result of layoffs or nonrenewal of contracts.

Locally, the number of Filipinos who have lost their jobs since the start of the global financial crisis has also run in the thousands. This makes the local job market tougher than ever.

But there is always hope to look forward to. New businesses are opening, and some old ones may be expanding. The Philippine economy is expected to grow this year although at a slower rate than before.

With this, believe that there will be a job out there for you. Here are some tips on how you can make it in the tough job market:

1. Research on the industries that are growing. Worldwide, the health sector, for instance, is continuing to grow. Opportunities also abound in business process outsourcing, which includes call centers. Read the business news and features in newspapers, magazines and websites and sharpen your business radar. Find out what companies and industries are hiring people.

2. Hire a headhunter or sign up for job websites where you can post your resume online. This will let employers know about you. For job websites, employers need only to search for job applicants matching their qualifications and they will get in touch with you or the website administration will alert you of the job opening.

3. Make your resume look professionally done. Employers would want to see first your career objective, work history (including job description) and educational attainment before your personal information. Take time to write your job description and career objective well. Use high quality paper and an easily readable font. Make sure your photo shows you at your professional best.

4. Go to job fairs. Wear professional attire, bring several copies of your resume, and visit job fairs being organized in the city. At this fairs, interviews may be done on the spot so be prepared to talk about yourself, your career objective, and your skills. Be confident.

5. Find credible people to give you good recommendations. For your character reference list, choose people who know you and have worked with you and you know will put in a good word for you. Before you put them on your CV, however, inform them that you would like to put them on your character reference list.

6. Consider temporary or contractual jobs. A temporary or contractual job may lead to a permanent job if your employer is satisfied with your performance. Put in excellent work and make sure you are found to be reliable.

7. Work part-time while looking for a full-time job. Take stock of your skills and find something you can do and earn from. For instance, you may teach a subject or two in a college nearby, or tutor some kids on their school subjects. You may also be a tour guide on Saturdays or assist a friend in her catering business. You don't have to be idle when looking for a full-time job. The money you may earn from a part-time job may also go a long way in helping your family make ends meet for now.

How about a business?

Earning money cannot only be done by working for others. Why not work for yourself? A lot of people amazed themselves when they stepped out in faith and started working for themselves. Yes you can earn money by being your own boss!

How can you go about it? First, take stock of what you are good at. What can you do that makes you stand out from the crowd? If you can bake well, consider starting a home bakeshop business. The capital will not be too much since you will be using your existing kitchen appliances and you won't have to pay rent. Or maybe you're good at organizing events. Start an events company and offer your services in planning parties and corporate events. If you are good at buying and selling, start an online shop and sell stuff you think people will need and want.

Remember: Be confident about your skills. If you are confident, your would-be employer or customers will see they can trust you.

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Your fave celebrities' 'mommy memories'

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—I can't help getting emotional every Mother's Day. It intensifies my longing to see my Superwo-Mom whom I miss with every breath I take.

But the love and lessons she left me with will tide me over until I'm back in her warm embrace. Being my mother's daughter will always be my best credential and being my children's mother is what I live for.

I asked the stars to share their own "mommy memories." Here's to all mothers whose work is never done and whose love never runs out.

Karylle: "I cherish the time when my mom and I did our first number together in 'ASAP.' During the commercial break while we were both onstage, I kept rehearsing my spiel, 'Welcome back to ASAP,' since I just transferred from GMA. My mom kept teasing me na 'wag daw ako magkamali so the audience kept laughing. When we went on air, they cheered loudly when I delivered my spiel correctly."

Ogie Alcasid: "I'll never forget one springtime in the '80s when my mom and I toured the countryside of Japan, and the spiritual retreat we had during my parents' golden wedding anniversary."

Miriam Quiambao: "I agreed to meet my mom at her office for lunch but was unable to confirm. When I arrived, I was told she had a meeting so I thought she had forgotten. It turned out she left her phone at home. She fed me her baon. It was one of our best bonding moments."

Diether Ocampo: "I'm always touched when my mom cooks for me and fights those who instigate me."

Tintin Bersola-Babao: "What stands out in my memory are our travels together, her kilometric text messages which are the highlight of my day and her one of a kind laughter."

Christian Bautista: "When my mom forgave me after I got caught cheating in my Grade 1 exams. I value the way she reminds me not to forget God and the family despite my busy schedule."

Yasmien Kurdi: "My mom and I always watch movies together. Naghihiraman kami ng books and unahan kami kung sino makatapos. She's like my best friend. No secrets between us. We share everything—even clothes. Kulang na lang pati underwear! Hahaha."

Mark Herras: "I don't leave the house without kissing my mom. Minsan pag nakakalimutan ko, she would text me at nagda-drama. I love it when she makes lambing that way."

Alfred Vargas: "Despite my mom's busy schedule as a lawyer, she always makes it a point to spend quality time with me."

Karylle's heart heals with therapy

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Singer-actress Karylle said she underwent therapy after her highly publicized break-up with controversial actor Dingdong Dantes—and was once ashamed to admit it.

"I was afraid people would laugh at me, that they'd think I've gone crazy," Karylle told Inquirer Entertainment at the media launch of the ABS-CBN teleserye "Nasaan Ka Maruja?"

Positive feedbackBut when she started talking about it in interviews, Karylle "received messages from people in my e-mail and Multiply account, about how they also wanted to go on a retreat."

Karylle said there was a time—while she was out on mall shows and provincial tours—supporters would hand her small notes, thanking her and telling her how she has inspired them.

Karylle

"Even the sisters running the retreat house where I went to in Baguio City said a lot of people came to them after reading or hearing me talk about it. So I guess it's OK to talk about it some more," she explained.

Karylle continued: "Kahit maraming matawa sa akin, at least I'd get to help people. There's nothing wrong if you just choose to cry your blues away. It's just that it's also comforting to know that you can seek help from professionals. There's also nothing wrong with that."

The 28-year-old daughter of Zsazsa Padilla revealed it also helps that she no longer watches Dingdong's shows. "I also don't react to every issue involving him because we don't have a relationship anymore."

Change of environmentThe former GMA 7 talent added that a change of environment also helped heal her broken heart a little faster. Karylle is now a contract artist of rival network ABS-CBN.

"I look at it as something similar to transferring to a new school. If you used to be quiet and shy, you can start fresh in your new school. You don't have to keep people's old impressions of you," she pointed out.

Now that she's a Kapamilya, Karylle said she's hoping to find new friends.

"They're all accommodating here. They welcomed me warmly," she said. "Kaya lang wala pa akong ka-close. I get to spend time with actors my age only on Sundays in 'Asap '09.'"

In "Komiks Presents Mars Ravelo's Nasaan Ka Maruja?", Karylle plays Helen, half-sister and confidante to Kristine Hermosa's character Cristy.

The show also features Derek Ramsay, Gloria Romero, John Estrada and Enciong Dee, among others. It premiered last Saturday.

Cayabyab: I warned Martin about anthem style

VIGAN CITY—If only Martin Nievera listened to the advice of maestro Ryan Cayabyab, he would not be embroiled in national controversy.

The renowned musician said here that he warned Nievera not to change the melody of the National Anthem at the opening of Sunday's Pacquiao-Hatton bout in Las Vegas.

"Martin, papatayin ka ng tao. Huwag mong papalitan yung huling part kasi delikado ka. (Martin, you will be crucified for that. Don't change the last part or you'll be in trouble)," Cayabyab recalled telling Nievera.

Cayabyab was in Vigan City on Tuesday as judge in the Ilocandia Singing Idol upon invitation of Ilocos Sur Board Member Zuriel Zaragoza who put up the provincewide singing contest.

He said Nievera sent him a copy of his nontraditional rendition of the Lupang Hinirang five days before the fight.

Cayabyab, who's fondly called by his friends and singers as Mr C, said that the country's concert king first confided to him about his plan to jazz up the national anthem during ASAP, ABS-CBN's Sunday noontime variety show.

He urged Nievera to sing Lupang Hinirang the regular way

Nievera

because other Filipinos would join him in singing.

Nievera, however, told Cayabyab that he would push through with his plan because he's "doing it for the country."

Still, Cayabyab insisted that he should not change the last part.

He said Nievera delivered "a very good performance" but lamented that the rendition violated the Flag and Heraldic Code (Republic Act. No. 8491).

He said he reminded Nievera that he would be fined P5,000 if he changed the melody.

Cayabyab said he would be open to join the debate on how the National Anthem be sung.

"As a musician, I will stick to the original because that is how the composer meant it to be," he said. ***(Inquirer.net)***

RP 'sabong' goes to Cannes festival

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—It was an auspicious e-mail. Returning from Easter Vigil Mass, New York-based Filipino filmmaker Janice Y. Perez checked her inbox and found a message that made her heart skip.

"I saw these words in big letters: 'See you in Cannes and welcome to the Short Film Corner,'" she told Inquirer in an e-mail interview.

It was surprising, she said, especially since her short film, "Sabongero," took a circuitous route to the premier world fest.

Before she could shoot this dream project, many doors were closed for Perez. She even lost a grant because the script tackled cockfighting in her home province of Cebu, a pastime considered cruel by animal activists.

Perez, an accountant by profession, remained steadfast. Three years ago, she had just come out of the New York Film Academy. In a 2006 forum hosted by the Independent Feature Project, she found her Eureka moment.

"One of the panelists, filmmaker Dito Montiel, told the audience at Lincoln Center: 'If you want to make your first feature, write a story you know nothing about. That will make you … want to get to know it more.'"

Perez took that to heart. "I had zero knowledge on cockfighting before writing the script," she said. And directing the film became a matter of "vanquishing my own doubts and fears."

She explained: "It allowed me to take a deeper look into an unfamiliar world. I [managed] to shed my prejudices. It doesn't mean I'm advocating cockfighting now, but I no longer lambaste it. It's a great privilege to share this story with the world, [including] animal rights activists, so they can understand this cultural phenomenon."

Making it to Cannes' Short Film Corner is "surreal," she insisted. "Two months ago, we just wrapped up work after an exhausting 12-hour shoot (in a Mactan cockpit, with cinematographer Ruel Antipuesto). I am humbled by, and grateful for, this opportunity."

She's eager to "network with producers, agents, buyers and other indie filmmakers [in Cannes], as well as catch a glimpse of my idols Pedro Almodovar, Michel Gondry and Jacques Audiard."

Needless to say, she's proud to join compatriots Raya Martin, Adolfo Alix Jr. and Brillante Mendoza in the country's biggest year in Cannes ever. There's another Filipino film in the Short Film Corner' Miguel Ocampo and Aissa Peñafiel's 'Manong Maong,' which brings to a total of five the country's entries in the 2009 Cannes.

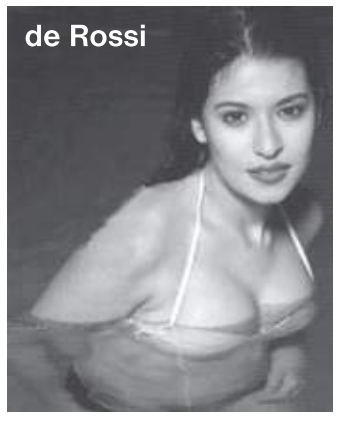
Perez, one of the founders of the first annual Indio Bravo Film Festival (set in New York next month), said, "The Philippines just might emerge as Asia's cinema powerhouse."

Assunta shines in MMK showcase

By NESTOR TORRE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—We congratulate the anthology drama show, "Maala-ala Mo Kaya," for occasionally showcasing some under-utilized stars in challenging roles, the better to remind other producers and the viewing public of their exceptional talent.

A couple of weeks ago, the beneficiary of the "reminder" showcase was Assunta de Rossi. Even when she was a sexy starlet, Assunta impressed us with her beauty and relative self-possession. When she gave up acting in favor of married life, we were sad to see her go.


de Rossi

So, we welcomed the comeback showcase that MMK offered Assunta—and we're happy to report that she took full advantage of the opportunity to show that she's become an even better actress during her extended leave from the biz.

In the Jeffrey Jeturian-directed drama, Assunta played a young woman who has learned a lot from the ways that the many men in her life use and abuse her. Instead of reacting in knee-jerk anger, she employs psychology and a keen understanding of the macho psyche to still get her way, despite their masculine intransigence.

Due to its usual take on male-female relationships, the MMK drama was a refreshing viewing treat, a relatively rare find on local TV screen, which is full of mostly predictable, regurgitated stuff.

On the debit side, so many men were involved with Assunta's character in the episode that the plot progression felt repetitious after a while.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Pacman's political agenda

Okay. So it wasn't a feint. Boxing icon Manny Pacquiao really looks set on throwing his hat into the political ring a second time, and apparently for keeps. He has already formed a "local" political party, the People's Champ Movement, which has been recognized by the Commission on Elections. He has already signed on as party president. And, from Las Vegas, and with the assistance of one of the world's most famous emcees, he has already signaled his ambition to run for office in Sarangani Province.

He will do so against the advice of many. Some of that advice is well-meant; at the peak of his career, the world's best pound-for-pound boxer should not be distracted from the pursuit of all-time-great status. Some of the advice is, well, condescending; in the view of many, Pacquiao should not involve himself in politics because, with his lack of formal education (which he is currently remedying), he is unqualified. This view is rankly undemocratic; it is also grossly uninformed by history. Our narrative of plunder and corruption involves many highly educated men and women with expensive degrees—those we all too readily describe as qualified for political office.

The rest of the advice is a mix of both good intention and condescension: many Filipinos do not want Pacquiao to end up being used by politicians, and many fear he will not have the habits of reflection and the inner disposition to know when he is being used.

But it is also true that Pacquiao built a triumphant life out of practically nothing, is now a sports legend-in-the-making, because he goes for the jugular. That, in the end, may best explain his obsession with political office. Life in the Philippines pulses through this jugular vein; why shouldn't he aim for it?

Thus, on the Freddie Roach-ian principle that anticipation is the key to victory, we suggest the following three-point political agenda for Pacquiao.

■ He can make election reform his legacy. The democratic project is based on a principle of equality, which should be dear to Pacquiao's heart: one man, one vote. Unfortunately, as residents in certain parts of his native Mindanao can attest, the exercise of power and money distorts that principle. Pacquiao can leverage his political office and his personal popularity to help make dirty elections, one town at a time, a thing of the past.

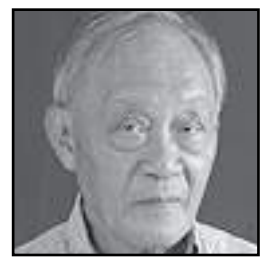
■ He can lead the fight against corruption. In particular, he can bring public pressure to bear on the Office of the Ombudsman, whoever occupies the office, to run after malefactors and raise its conviction rate. Again, he can leverage his office and popularity to attract greater public participation in anti-corruption campaigns, and embolden witnesses to testify.

■ He can join the fight against poverty. He need not spend his own considerable fortune, but he can push for more entrepreneur-friendly policies. He can also lend his prestige to the cause of agrarian reform, an issue that has riven his beloved Mindanao and which will pit him against some of the very politicians who took him, when still young, under their wing.

All this will require of him a different kind of courage.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

Tempest over the National Anthem



Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Manny Pacquiao's devastating knockout of British fighter Ricky Hatton last Sunday spawned a full-blown national controversy, not over Pacquiao's undisputed boxing skills, but over the rendition by singer Martin Nievera of the Philippine National Anthem ahead of the fight.

The tempest over a song sidelined another issue that erupted after Pacquiao, in the flush of euphoria, announced plans to run for Congress, believing it's timely to take another crack at politics after a humiliating defeat in the 2007 congressional election for the first district of South Cotabato because he is now at the new height of his popularity.

Whether or not his reentry into the treacherous terrain of the political arena would lead to his ruin, either financially or in terms of prestige, is the least of my concerns. Pacquiao knows best what's good for him and in what discipline he excels most; but I'm not sure if he will feel at home in the company of countless dolts in Congress or be counted as part of their "honorable" circle. Maybe, at some point of their association, assuming he is successful in his fresh bid for Congress, Pacquiao, through osmosis, can mutate quickly into a rapacious predator of pork-barrel funds, sparing him the need to dig into his hard-earned prize money from boxing to gratify the gluttonous demands for patronage of his electoral constituency.

The controversy over Nievera's interpretation of "Lupang Hinirang" reveals an aspect of the Filipino character, our people's ultrasensitivity to nationalistic issues. It tells us never to tamper with our iconic nationalistic symbols, such as the anthem, which we take to heart every day of our lives, including when we start the working week with a flag ceremony in schools and government offices, or when watching the movies.

Nievera has been widely criticized for taking liberties in interpreting the anthem, a sacrosanct symbol. Nievera sang the anthem at the fight upon the request of Pacquiao, who needed it to boost his morale and fire up his Filipino fans in the arena. In the Olympics, national anthems are played in celebration after victory has been won on the playing fields, but in boxing the anthems are sang before the fight begins to rouse up aggression in the fighters fighting for national glory and honor.

The Pacquiao-Hatton fight was tremendously important to Filipino self-esteem, sense of national identity and pride. We have been starved of success in our national undertakings. We have failed more than we have succeeded in many of our national projects. The Pacquiao victory proved we are not a failed state, an economic basket case, as many of our critics are wont to classify us, and we are capable of achievement at the top, even if only in the brutal sport of boxing. In such a sport, the inspiration provided by the National Anthem is extremely important for our national pride. We have had a long-standing problem with our national identity as a people, but I don't believe we have an identity problem and the problem stems from a self-inflicted inferiority complex.

The issue of Nievera's interpretation of our anthem was succinctly expressed by the National Historical Institute. Its chair, Ambeth Ocampo, expressed a widely-shared view when he took Nievera to task, saying "'Lupang Hinirang' is not open to free interpretation." A historian, Ocampo noted that Nievera started the anthem slowly, took on a martial beat in the middle, then ended on a sustained high note.

Ocampo pointed out that the manner in which the anthem is to be sung or played is defined by law. Section 37 of Republic Act No. 849, the 1988 Flag and Heraldic Code, provides that "the rendition of the National Anthem shall be in accordance with the musical arrangement and composition of Julian Felipe."

Our anthem is march music borne out of a revolutionary struggle. It is the spirit of the anthem. Felipe composed the music as a march, commissioned by Emilio Aguinaldo for the proclamation of the Kawit Republic on June 12, 1898. It was originally titled "Marcha Filipina Magdalo," and was first played by the San Francisco de Malabon Band. It was composed to fire up revolutionary spirit and resistance, to fight against all odds as the Kawit republic struggled for its life.

Nievera said he was told by many, including Pacquiao, "not to sing it slow." They wanted him "to sing it like a march, the way it was written." Ignoring those warnings, Nievera interpreted the song the way he understood it. He said that "from the deepest part of my heart I sang for my country." He explained that he tried "to inspire a nation—which was all I tried to do."

Many Filipinos did not like what they heard. Many believed his tampering with or distortion of the arrangement of Felipe robbed the anthem of its martial context. The revolutionary spirit was lost in the alteration. It sounded as if the music was composed in a milieu of peace and tranquility when in reality it was composed amid one of the most turbulent periods of the Filipino people's struggle for independence and national sovereignty. The period was the end of the Spanish empire and the advent of another colonial rule by the expansionist, imperial America.

Nievera's explanations do not justify his alterations. Singers without a sense of history, who sing for their pleasure, strip historic musical themes of their meaning. I replayed the video of Nievera's rendition to our staff or secretaries at the Inquirer who are in their 20s and 30s. They found that Nievera's tempo failed to capture the military cadence that they were taught in school and they are used to singing during flag ceremonies. Singers who fail to capture this rhythm are isolated and are out of step with history.

Changing the flag and anthem

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Bandera is the name of a tabloid. It is also the name of a place in Texas that claims to be the "Cowboy capital of the world." Bandera can also be spelled and pronounced in the Philippines as "bandila," which is also the title of the evening news on ABS-CBN. While used interchangeably in speech, bandera, bandila, and watawat all mean flag but the Oath of Allegiance to our flag is known officially in Filipino as "Panunumpa sa Watawat."

I did a Google search to see if someone else has used Watawat as the name of a newspaper, magazine, or TV or radio news. I only found a brand of shoes called Watawat, a band led by Freddie Aguilar named Watawat, and a song by the late Francis Magalona entitled "Watawat."

We see our flag every day, but often overlook it. We see, but do not notice. Then Manny Pacquiao won a world boxing title in Las Vegas and we noticed the flag being waved in the audience.

The *Philippine Daily Inquirer* recently printed a large front-page photograph, obviously staged, showing two boxing fans relieving themselves in a public restroom. One was wearing the British flag like a cape on his back while the other wore the Philippine flag. This photograph made many people smile, but others felt outraged.

Should people treat flags in this way? Schoolchildren are taught that our flag should be respected: it is raised in the morning, lowered in the afternoon or in inclement weather. Our flag is folded in a special way and care is made that it does not touch the ground. When a flag is old, faded, or tattered, it is removed from service, burned and the ashes buried somewhere instead of thrown in the waste can or flushed down a toilet. This is what many Filipinos are taught in school and by joining the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts of the Philippines. All this I learned before 1998 when Republic Act 8491, more popularly known as the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines, was passed into law.

Many people are unaware that such a law exists and only get to notice when they find out that they have violated part of it. The law came out of the "baul" (chest) again after Martin Nievera's pop rendition of the National Anthem before the Pacquiao fight brought about opinions for or against singing the anthem as Julian Felipe composed it in 1898. There are many opinions for and against a provision in the Flag Law that remind us that the anthem's marching or martial character has to be considered when it is sung or played. I would like to think the Nievera episode is something we can learn from rather than argue about. At the end of the month we shall, yet again, celebrate Flag Day in Cavite, in what has since grown into a Wagayway Festival where we commemorate the first time the flag was used in battle. The Nievera episode is also a way for us to reflect on both flag and anthem, to rethink the law and seek revisions or amendments if necessary.

Is the flag still representative of the Philippines in 2009 as it was when the nation was born in 1898? What happens when the symbolism of the present Philippine flag, the symbol of the country, is challenged?

One of the dominant features of the flag is a yellow sun with eight rays that symbolize the first eight provinces placed under martial law at the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896—not, as usually thought, the first eight provinces to revolt against Spain. What happens when other narratives emerge? The people of Mindanao who have remained Muslim precisely because they were never conquered by Spain or moved by Spanish culture insist that they are not represented in the flag and suggest the addition of a ninth ray to the flag. O. D. Corpuz would quickly reply that Mindanao is represented by one of the three stars in the flag, so why ask for a ninth ray? The people of the Cordilleras have also retained their culture and traditions because they also resisted Spanish influence. In 1986 when the present Constitution was being drafted, they didn't ask for a star or a ray in the sun, but someone suggested the addition of a budong cane!

If you look at the logo of the International Committee of the Red Cross in some places, you will notice that the cross, a Christian symbol, is now side by side with a red crescent moon, a Muslim symbol. Now that's political correctness for our times but not historically founded.

In 1986 revisions to our flag were rejected not only for aesthetic reasons but on the grounds that the symbolism of the flag was determined by the Founding Fathers when they declared independence from Spain in June 1898. But then if Filipinos actually read the Philippine declaration of independence text read in Kawit, Cavite, from the balcony of Emilio Aguinaldo's home in 1898, they will be surprised and disappointed to discover that the three main colors—red, white and blue that have traditionally stood for bravery, purity and peace—were actually borrowed from the flag of the United States of America under whose benevolent protection the Founding Fathers sought assistance.

Charter change is said to be in our best interests, and while people are wary about extending the term of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, there are other things that can be changed by Cha-cha, including our flag, anthem, and the way we connect with our past.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

Computer class alumni volunteer at youth center

Members of the Saipan Building and Fixing Computers Users Group recently rendered community service at the Tanapag Youth Center, an office under the supervision of the Department of Youth Services. at the Tanapag Youth Center.

During this community service, the group was able to repair five computers and fix some immediate problems such as anti-virus, battery backup issues, network and Internet connections, router connections, files and printer sharing and upgrading the speed of their Internet. The group was also able to delete unused profiles, create new users, etc.

The group and its members have been very active in doing community service around Saipan.

On May 2, group members also provided free services to the Philippine Overseas Labor Office by checking the condition of the office's computers and fixing all problems found in preparation for the opening of the Basic Computer Operations 2 class on May 24, 2009.

For 2009, the newly elected SBFCUG officers are Edmin Elayda, chairman; Angel Deliva, vice chairman; Ana Marie Ocon, secretary; Amado Tumbaga, assistant secretary; Olive Yana, treasurer; Manny Cisnero, assistant treasurer; Amor Zapata, auditor; Rolando Vicencio, webpage administrator.

All SBFCUG officers and members are graduates of the Building and Fixing Computers Course being offered at the Filipino Workers Resource Center-POLO, Philippine Consulate General.

SBFCUG founder Marcelo V. Masilungan and Jousel Regilme, both volunteer-instructors at the FWRC-POLO, act as advisers to the group. ***(PR)***

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Happy Mother's Day to mom Beverly! You're the greatest! We thank you for all the things you've done for all of us. You deserve the best in this world. We love you!" From your wonderful husband and loving children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Mothers Day to mom Vanessa! "We love you Mommy, you are the best and the greatest in the whole world. Enjoy your day with fun and relaxation" From your loving family, Daddy Shawn and Princess Shalei.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Mother's Day greetings go out to Lola Violy! We love you! Greetings come from Royce, Rane, and Roxanne Ben.

INVITATION FOR BID

Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Rota
IFB NO.: NMHC - IFB09-002

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide building maintenance services for its housing units in As Liyo, Island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or Songsong Village, Rota, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in Songsong Village, Rota. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB09-002.** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, May 22, 2009.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 22, 2009 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than May 22, 2009 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than June 3, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 4, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, May 22, 2009.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage for the CNMI or the U. S. Department of Labor General Decision CM20080001, whichever is higher.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Rota.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

Should you require additional information, please direct inquiries to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, via email to ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp or facsimile at (670) 234-9021, no later than end of business day, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2009, so that questions and answers may be shared with all bidders.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement & Supply

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

1.) Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc.

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on the following Conditional Use Permit Application:

1. File 2008-1497 –Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc., Lot 409-1-R1

Date: May 21, 2009, Thursday
Time: 5:30 pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, May 22, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

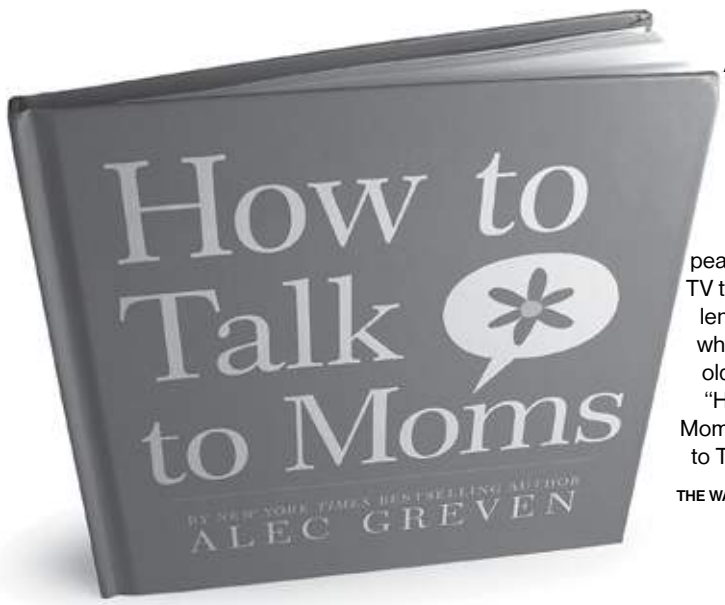
For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman.

Young Style

Words of Mother's Day wisdom

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST



Alec Greven, of Colorado, wrote advice book, "How to Talk to Girls," which led to an appearance on the TV talk show "Ellen." Now Alec, who is 10 years old, has written "How to Talk to Moms" and "How to Talk to Dads."

THE WASHINGTON POST

When Alec Greven, of Colorado, had to do an independent writing assignment last year in third grade, he looked to the playground for inspiration. He thought that boys and girls sometimes don't get along, so he wrote several pages of advice for boys on how to talk to girls.

His teacher made some copies for the school book fair, and they sold out—twice. A local TV station did a piece on Alec's advice book, which led to an appearance on the national TV talk show "Ellen." Last fall, HarperCollins published Alec's book, "How to Talk to Girls."

Now Alec, who is 10 years old, has written "How to Talk to Moms" and "How to Talk to Dads," which came out last month. KidsPost asked Alec for some advice about celebrating Mother's Day.

Q: Is it important to make a big deal out of Mother's Day?

A: It's a really big day for mothers because moms do so much stuff—good, awesome stuff—for us and I think we should do some nice stuff for them. ... Moms do all the bad extra stuff for you that you should be doing, so you (should) do some extra stuff for them.

Q: Do you have any suggestions for things to do for Mother's Day?

A: Moms may not be that happy if you go out and spend all your money on this really huge gift. ... If you absolutely have to BUY your mom a Mother's Day present, go to Dad, because usually you want to keep it a surprise. But the best thing is a homemade gift, like maybe have great behavior or make a card or a calendar, or bring breakfast in bed to your parents.

Q: What about the rest of the year? What do moms like or not like?

A: Moms like it when you make them a nice note and you hug them a lot. And don't always do it when you want something; do it all the time. And moms really don't like it when you bring bugs and snakes and stuff into the house, because then you'll lose them and Mom freaks out because she doesn't want to be sitting on a spider.

Q: Did you ever do anything that made your mom mad?

A: One thing that a lot of moms don't like is ... when you take Mom's perfume or food and make all sorts of concoctions. I made this big stew, and it was in my mom's birdbath. It was all outdoor stuff. If I used a bucket I wouldn't be in trouble at all. But my mom wasn't that happy when she saw that the birdbath had this brown, icky stuff in it. Now I make my concoctions in buckets.

MOTHER'S DAY FACT

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

WASHINGTON—Americans have celebrated Mother's Day every second Sunday in May for the past 95 years. We can thank Anna Jarvis, of Philadelphia, for the holiday. In 1909, she led a letter-writing campaign with goal of creating a Mother's Day observance. Five years later, in 1914, Congress passed legislation establishing the holiday.

Make these for Mom

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Pecan Pie Cookies

(Makes eight 2 1/2-inch cookies)

These kid-friendly, no-bake cookies are chewy and naturally sweet. Be sure to use a good-quality cinnamon. If you need help, ask Dad.

Make ahead: The cookies can be refrigerated or frozen for several weeks. Adapted from "Ani's Raw Food Desserts," by Ani Phyo (Da Capo Press, 2009).

Ingredients

1 cup pecan halves or pieces
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon freshly squeezed orange juice
8 ounces of plump, whole dates, pitted, then chopped into chunks

Directions

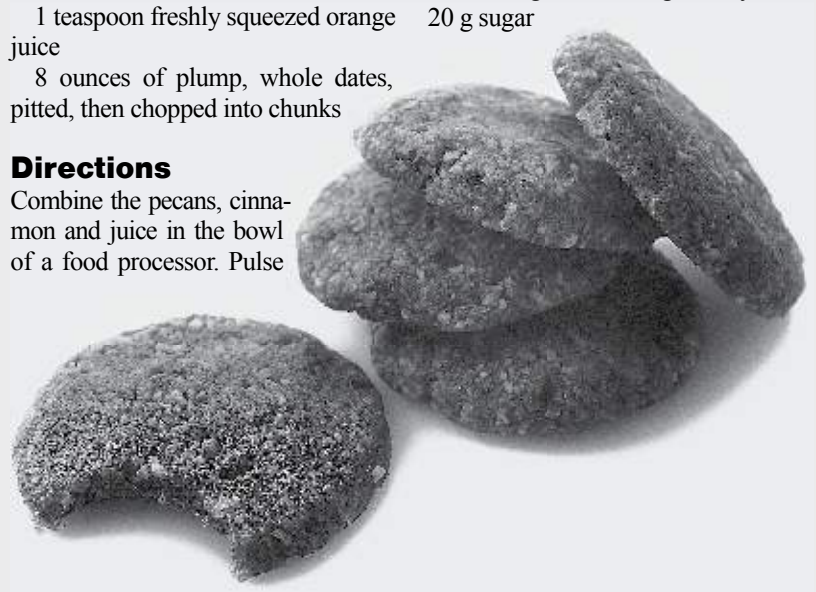
Combine the pecans, cinnamon and juice in the bowl of a food processor. Pulse until the nuts are finely chopped. Add the dates and pulse to form a mixture that can stay pressed together.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Divide the mixture into eight equal portions. Roll each one into a smooth, golf-ball-size ball, then flatten to form a 2 1/2-inch-round cookie. Place on the lined baking sheet. Repeat to use all of the mixture.

Cover and refrigerate or freeze until ready to serve.

NUTRITION Per cookie: 172 calories, 2 g protein, 24 g carbohydrates, 9 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 0 mg sodium, 3 g dietary fiber, 20 g sugar



THE WASHINGTON POST

Alec Greven, 10, of Colorado, has written two new advice books, "How to Talk to Moms" and "How to Talk to Dads." When asked for suggestions for things to do for Mother's Day, Alec said a homemade gift is best. Here's a kid-friendly, no-bake recipe for Pecan Pie Cookies.

A spring baby boom

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

THE WASHINGTON POST

On March 12, a giant anteater was born at the Smithsonian's National Zoo, only the second giant anteater to be born in the Washington zoo's history. Shown at six days old, the baby has been named Cyrano.

At Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo a Bolivian gray titi monkey carries its baby, born April 9, on its back. These monkeys are native to South American tropical forests.

Wild herbivores (animals that eat plants) tend to give birth in the spring because that gives the babies the best chance to grow big and strong and put on some fat before winter comes. Kristin the giraffe nuzzles her new baby at the San Francisco Zoo. The little giraffe was born April 2.

What do an iguana, an elephant, an anteater and an orangutan have in common? Well, when they're babies they're all adorable. But you may be wondering why so many animals have babies in the spring. Not all animals give birth in the spring. Dogs and cats can give birth any time of year, for example. But wild herbivores (animals that eat plants) tend to give birth in the spring because that gives the babies the best chance to grow big and strong and put on some fat before winter comes. Here are some of our favorite pictures of newborn animals, including Cyrano, the 8-week-old baby anteater at the National Zoo in Washington.

Meanwhile, the National Zoo is paying special attention to female panda Mei Xiang round-the-clock because she might be pregnant. You can watch, too, on the zoo's panda-cam at nationalzoo.si.edu. (And you can see the zoo's male pandas, dad Tian Tian and 3-year-old Tai Shan when they're out in the panda yard each day, but the Panda House is closed to give Mei Xiang some quiet.)

Baby pandas are so tiny—about the size of a stick of butter—that the expectant mother doesn't look pregnant.

Zoo officials are encouraged that Mei Xiang has been carrying bamboo into a dark, quiet area of the den, perhaps preparing to give birth. She has also been eating less and "cradling" some food, such as pears. If Mei Xiang is pregnant, she would likely have her cub within three weeks.

BABY ANIMAL FACT

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

The record number of puppies born in one litter is 24. They were bull mastiffs born in England in 2005.

How hard is it to meet someone famous?

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Is there anybody in the world you really admire and dream of meeting?

Well, according to one theory, you are only about six people away from knowing that person.

This "it's a small world" theory is called six degrees of separation.

It means that you probably know somebody (1) who knows somebody else (2) who knows somebody (3) who knows somebody else (4) who knows somebody (5) who knows the person you want to meet (6).

Let's say the person you want to meet is President Barack Obama. Here's one possible path: Your teacher (1) knows the school principal (2) who has a hairdresser (3) who cuts the hair of someone (4) who is married to someone (5) who works in the White House with the president (6).

This may seem unbelievable to you. But over many years researchers checking into the theory have come up with similar answers.

Here's what happened in 1967 when an American sociologist (a scientist who studies the way society operates and is organized) decided to test it out:

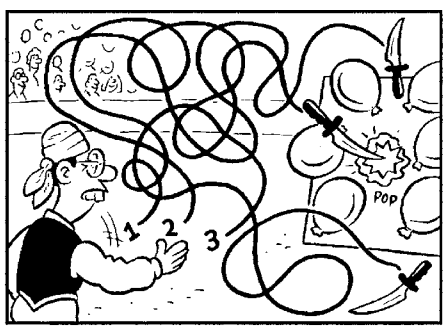
People in the Midwest who were randomly selected were asked to send a package to a stranger in Massachusetts. The only information they had about the person was the name, occupation and general location—but no address. They were asked to send the package to someone they knew well who might know the stranger, or know someone who knew the stranger.

On average, each of the packages reached its destination after being sent to between five and seven people!

That study involved a small number of people. But in 2001, a Columbia University professor did a similar experiment on the Internet. This one involved 48,000 senders in 160 countries and 19 "targets." The conclusion: The average number of people it took to deliver the message was six!

The phrase became commonly known after a 1990 play called "Six Degrees of Separation" became popular. It was later turned into a movie.

So the next time you read about someone you want to meet, try to figure out a way to get it done!

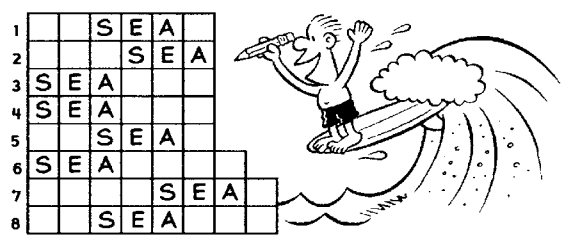


THIS NEARSIGHTED KNIFE THROWER is lucky to hit one out of three tries at popping balloons. Can you figure out which was the lucky toss?

Answer: Number 1 hits the target.

Junior Whirl

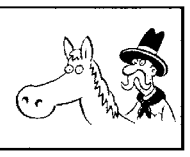
by Charles Barry Townsend



DON'T "WIPE OUT" ON THIS ONE!

Illustrated by David Coulson

A GIDDYAP GUESSER! A lone cowpoke ambled into Dodge City on Friday, stayed at Ma Bindles boarding-house for two days, and then ambled back out of town on Friday. That's a mighty short week. How did he do it?



Answer: Simple. His horse's name was "Friday."

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "SHOALS." Can you replace these letters in the squares so you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down? Time limit: 60 seconds.

S	A	
H		L
O	U	E
A	L	W
L		
S		

Answers: (Across): Has, all, use, low. (Down): Haul, also, slew.

Let's "see" what you know about the "sea." Above is a stack of eight words, each of which contains the word "sea." Using the following hints, try to sail home safely in five minutes or less.

1. Part of a pant leg.
2. Result of overheating.
3. A Navy carpenter.
4. To add salt and pepper.
5. To remove from office.
6. A weather protector.
7. A chair for two.
8. An egotistical, self-assured person.

Answers: 1. Inseam. 2. Nausea. 3. Seabee. 4. Season. 5. Unseat. 6. Sealant. 7. Loveseat. 8. Wiseacre.

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Teaching puppy not to bite

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Our family adopted a puppy just a few weeks ago. "Shep" is adorable and playful, but when we're playing, he will nip at ours or kids' fingers. Is this something he will grow out of?—Sharon in Tallahassee, Fla.

DEAR SHARON: When playing in the litter, puppies will often nip at each other, and this behavior often comes along with a puppy when he leaves the litter. However, it's not acceptable for Shep to continue doing this. If it's encouraged, he will playfully nip at the fingers of most anyone who pets him or plays with him, and in a grown dog it's no longer considered funny or cute.

To train Shep out of this behavior, signal to him that his biting is unacceptable. How do you do this? Easy—when he starts nipping at your fingers, say "No" or "Ouch" loudly, turn away and stop paying attention to him for about a minute. He'll go a bit crazy to get your attention back, but after several repeats, Shep will make the connection—if he bites or nips, your reaction will be negative.

The entire family needs to be in on this training. You can't be the only one turning away from Shep, as he'll just bounce on over to the next family member and start up again. So explain it to the children and practice a few times.

Now, how can your family play with Shep in a positive way that reduces biting or nipping? Toys, balls and braided tug chews are great ways to keep him engaged and work off his extra energy.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ You may recall the character of Tarzan from movies and cartoons as somewhat lacking in language skills—"Me Tarzan, you Jane." In the novels by Edgar Rice Burroughs, however, Tarzan was quite a linguist, speaking French, Latin, English, German, Dutch, Portuguese, several dialects of Arabic and ancient Mayan.

■ It was expatriate British novelist, poet, dramatist and travel writer Lawrence George Durrell who made the following observation: "There are only three things to be done with a woman. You can love her, suffer for her or turn her into literature."

■ Researchers have determined that infants tend to react strongly to the color red—and to no other color.

■ If you suffer from entomophobia—the fear of insects—you might not want to read the following tidbit of information: Those who study such things say that there are more than a quarter of a million different species of beetle.

■ In the mid-1990s, a Thai man who kept peacocks was killed by one of his pets when the sole male in the flock clawed him viciously. In retribution, the man's family killed the bird and cooked it in curry.

■ Four-time Pulitzer-winner and American poet laureate Robert Frost was named after Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

■ The neck of the trumpeter swan is the same length as the rest of its body.

■ You might be surprised to learn that air conditioning in private homes was available in the United States as early as 1929. Of course, that was the same year as the great stock market crash, so few people availed themselves of the newfangled—and expensive—convenience.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "A little government and a little luck are necessary in life, but only a fool trusts either of them."—P.J. O'Rourke

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MAGIC MAZE ● AUTOMOTIVE GPS

O G D B Z S E T A D P U X V S
Q O M K I G E C A Y O S W U S
S R P O R T A B L E S N T Q E
E E S N A V I G A T I O N P T
N C M N L J H F N U T I U E I
S E N I I V C I A O I T O Y L
X I V A T T O U S R O C M Q L
P V O S T P L I N T N E H M E
K E J P Y S I I C S H R S F T
E R C A B Z I R U E Y I A X A
V U W M T R Q D T B S D D P S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Best route	Distance	Portables	Updates
Built-ins	Maps	Position	Voices
Dash mount	Navigation	Receiver	Waypoints
Directions	POIs	Trip time	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	–		x		9
÷		–		÷	
	+		x		24
+		x		+	
	–		x		15
11		4		8	

2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

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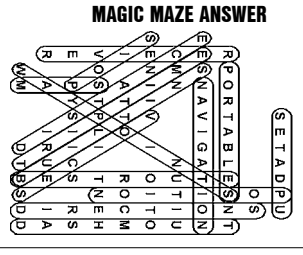
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

8	8	9	4	1	11
–	5	x	4	–	7
15	+	7	x	3	+
x	x	5	+	6	2
24	3	x	6	+	÷
9	÷	1	–	2	8
x	9	x	7	–	

Have a heart for Mom on Mother's Day

We've all heard stories about moms who go above and beyond the call of duty for their families, but when is too much too much? A classic example is the story of the mom who was determined to clean up the kitchen before calling 911, even though she had symptoms of an impending heart attack.

According to Dr. Margaret Beahrs—a cardiologist at St. Paul Heart Clinic in St. Paul, Minn., and advocate for women's cardiovascular health—stories abound of women who put their family to-do list before seeking care. "Just last winter a grandmother chose to get the holiday baking done on time, ignoring the symptoms of chest discomfort and shortness of breath," she recalled. "Unfortunately, she waited too long and came into the hospital too late."

"Women tend to put themselves and their heart health last during the holidays and family celebrations," said Dr. Beahrs. "Mother's Day is an ideal time to remind women to have a heart. Your family needs you for a long time!"

Here's how the kids can give Mom a heart-healthy break. Set the mood and encourage her to relax on Mother's Day and throughout the year with colorful stained-glass votive candleholders. The kids can design the lovely gift in three easy steps using old, recycled juice glasses, bright tissue paper and household glue.

Here's how:

1. Cut plain tissue paper into 1-inch squares, triangles and rectangles. Older kids might want to try heart, fish, star and flower shapes as well.

2. Squeeze white household glue into a small bowl and dilute with a few drops of water. Brush a light coat of the glue mixture on the outside of a juice glass. In an overlapping pattern, apply the tissue shapes over the glue. Smooth out each piece with your fingers as you go along.

3. When the outside of the glass is covered, apply another coating or two of the glue mixture over all of the tissue paper. Let dry for several hours. When dry, the tissue paper will look bright and colorful once again.

Set a votive candle inside and gift wrap it with love for Mom on Mother's Day.

Note: For more information specifically about women and cardiovascular disease, go to www.americanheart.org and click on "Healthy Lifestyle" then "Women and Cardiovascular Disease."

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Chris Brown's lawyer wants LAPD records

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown's attorney has requested police files regarding the alleged beating of Rihanna—including an investigation into a leaked photo of her bruised face—seeking evidence of misconduct he says could be grounds for dismissal.

Mark Geragos wrote in a motion filed Wednesday that he wants the personnel and investigative records to see if he can discredit police witnesses during a June preliminary hearing. He also wants the paperwork from an investigation into a photo of a battered Rihanna that was leaked to celebrity gossip Web site TMZ.

If those files contain evidence of police misconduct, Geragos wrote, they could help him build an argument to dismiss charges against the R&B singer. Brown, 20, remains free on bail after his Feb. 8 arrest with his then-girlfriend.

Geragos wrote that he believes a Los Angeles Police Department officer sold TMZ the photo, which he said has damaged the singer's case. He added that it was seen by "hundreds of thousands of viewers" and remains on TMZ.

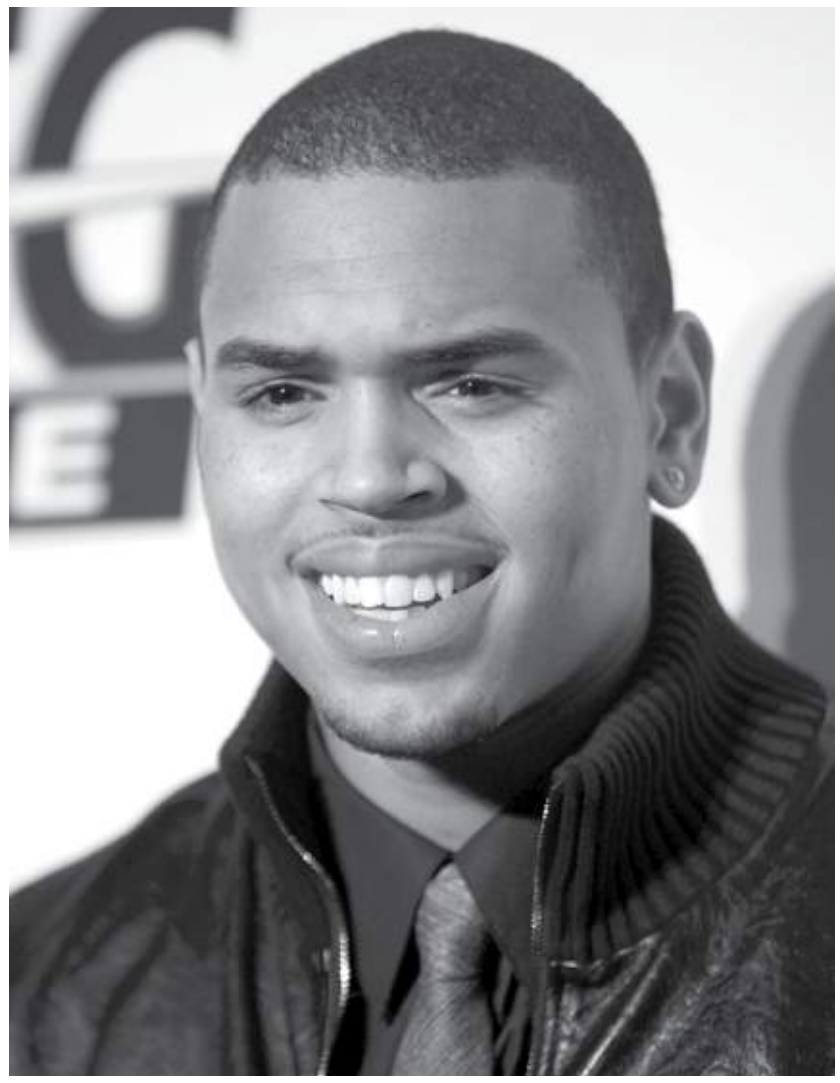
"The purpose of the leak was necessarily for profit and to vilify Mr. Brown and poison the potential jury pool," Geragos wrote.

The LAPD has said the photo appeared to be part of its investigation and is investigating the leak. The department had no new information on that probe Thursday.

Geragos is also seeking the personnel files and other records of 25 LAPD officers and employees who apparently handled the case, including any previously filed misconduct complaints.

The motions are scheduled to be heard May 28.

Police said at the time of Brown's arrest that he was involved in a fight in the Hancock Park neighborhood with a woman who was later identified as Rihanna. He was charged with felony assault likely to cause great bodily harm and making criminal threats, and has pleaded not guilty.



AP

In this Feb. 7, 2009 file photo, Chris Brown arrives at the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Lynyrd Skynyrd bassist 'Ean' Evans dead at 48

COLUMBUS, Miss. (AP)—Bassist Donald "Ean" Evans of the Southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd has died after a battle with cancer.

Lowndes County Coroner Greg Merchant said Evans died Wednesday at his home in eastern Mississippi. He was 48.

In a statement posted on lynyrdskynyrd.com the band said, "It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of longtime Lynyrd Skynyrd bassist Ean Evans. Ean put up a valiant battle with an aggressive form of cancer and he will be sorely missed by family, friends and fans."

Evans was born in Atlanta, but moved to Columbus after marrying his wife, Eva. He joined Lynyrd Skynyrd in 2001 and had been touring regularly with the band until being diagnosed with cancer in 2008, when he cut back on performances with the band.

Survivors include his wife and two daughters.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

"He was just one of those guys who was always a dreamer and always seeing ahead. And he was the most positive person I've ever met," Mike Chain, a guitarist who was close friends with Evans, told The Commercial Dispatch in Columbus, Miss.

The Jacksonville-based band was formed in 1966 by a group of high school students—famously, it took its name from a physical education teacher they disliked, Leonard Skinner.

They released their first album, "Pronounced leh-nerd skin-nerd." It became one of the South's most popular rock groups and gained national fame with such hits as "Free Bird," "What's Your Name" and especially "Sweet Home Alabama," which reached the top 10 on the charts in 1974. The band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2006.

The band suffered a tragic loss on Oct. 20, 1977, when their chartered plane crashed in a swamp near McComb, Miss. The crash claimed the lives of six people, including lead singer Ronnie Van Zant. Keyboard player Billy Powell survived the plane crash that killed three band members. He died in January.

LA judge denies Polanski's bid to toss sex case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Thursday dismissed Roman Polanski's bid to throw out a decades-old sex case because the fugitive director failed to appear in court to press his request.

In a seconds-long hearing with no lawyers present, Superior Court Judge Peter Espinoza said he was finalizing an earlier decision for the record. He had placed the order on hold to give Polanski time to return to the United States from France.

His lawyer, Chad Hummel, notified the judge earlier this week that Polanski would not appear because he believed his presence was irrelevant to the dismissal motion.

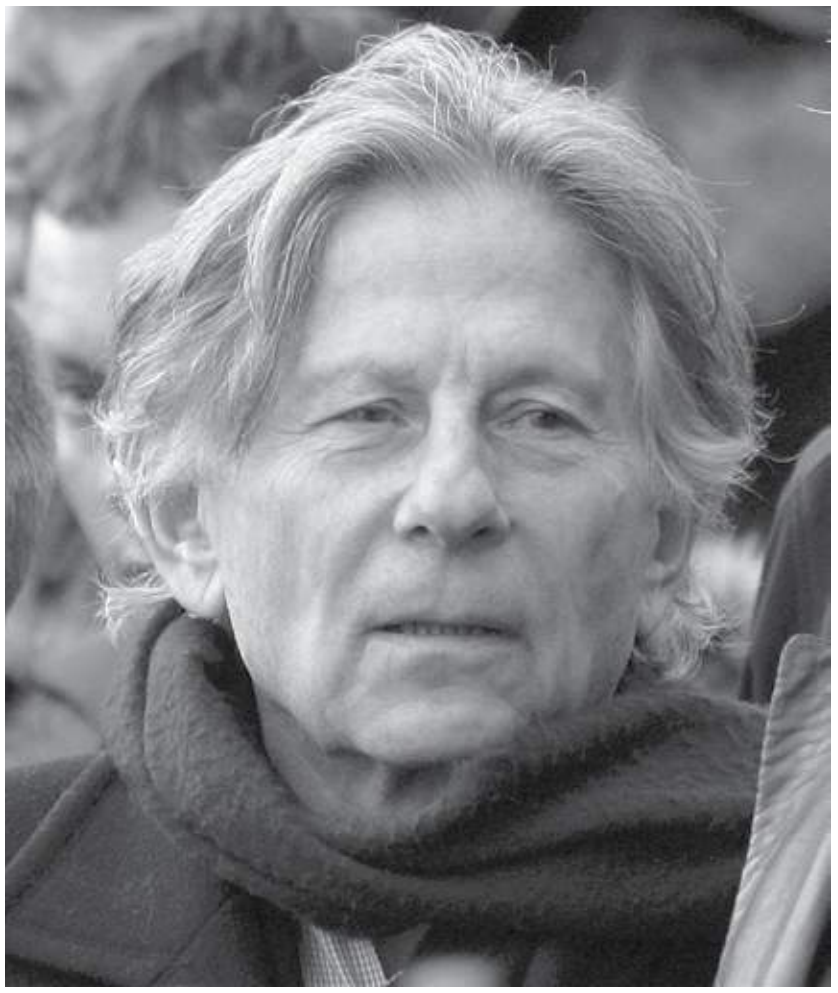
The judge took the bench briefly and said that because "Mr. Polanski doesn't intend to submit himself to the jurisdiction of the court," his motion for dismissal would be denied.

Hummel maintains that the issue of whether Polanski's rights were violated in his 1977 case can be decided in his absence. He has said he will seek review by an appeals court.

Polanski, 75, pleaded guilty in 1977 to unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl and then fled to France. He recently sought dismissal on grounds of misconduct by the now-deceased judge who had arranged a plea bargain and then reneged on it. Polanski risked arrest on a fugitive warrant if he returned to Los Angeles.

"The misconduct is plainly evident from the existing record," Hummel said of the behavior of the deceased judge. He also noted that Espinoza's refusal to dismiss the case is contrary to the wishes of the victim, Samantha Geimer, who joined in Polanski's bid for dismissal. She has said she wants the case to be over.

Espinoza relied on the fugitive disentitlement doctrine, which says that fugitives are not entitled to the processes of the court as long as they remain at large. He also cited the more than 30-year delay since Polanski fled.



AP

In this Jan. 15, 2009 file photo, Polish-born film director Roman Polanski during a burial ceremony for French film maker Claude Berri, in Montrouge, France.

Lawyer: Suriname promoter admits Braxton scam

PARAMARIBO, Suriname (AP)—A Suriname promoter acknowledged trying to pass off a Las Vegas-based entertainer as six-time Grammy winner Toni Braxton at a disastrous show dubbed the "Phony Toni" concert by local media, his lawyer said Thursday.

Angel Ventura told a judge he scammed people into paying up to $53 thinking they would hear the famous singer at a much-hyped show in this poor South American country more than two months ago, defense lawyer Lamure Latour told The Associated Press.

"He confessed in front of the investigating judge to the charges and said that he was aware of what he was doing," Latour said.

The Feb. 28 show ended abruptly after Braxton impersonator Trina Johnson-Finn hit a sour note at the beginning of the second song. She was rushed off the stage to a loud chorus of boos and a volley of trash.

Prosecutors have accused Johnson-Finn, 40, of trying to pass herself off as Braxton, best known for the hit song "Un-break My Heart" and appearances on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars."

She has been in jail for the last two months awaiting a scheduled trial May 26 for allegedly defrauding the nearly 3,000 people who bought tickets—though she says she was an unwitting participant in the scam.

Prosecutor Duncan Nanhoe said the promoter's confession does not necessarily clear Johnson-Finn.

"Yes, Ventura confessed. But I don't think that his admission of guilt dismisses Johnson as a suspect," Nanhoe said. It was not immediately clear if Johnson-Finn and Ventura would be tried together.

Johnson-Finn's husband, Raymond Finn, said she has augmented her 20-year singing career by impersonating various stars as a "tribute artist" and was also the victim of Ventura, who aggressively promoted her as the real Braxton without her knowledge.

The show was the first time she had performed as a Braxton look-a-like, he said. Finn also alleged that Ventura, who was arrested Monday in a bar in Paramaribo, the capital of this small former Dutch colony, pilfered the box office proceeds.

AP

In this May 2003 promotional photo released by Raymond Finn on May 5, 2009, Trina Johnson-Finn, a Las Vegas entertainer known for her celebrity imitations, is seen in Los Angeles, California.

Jackson's publicist sues for $44 million

Jackson

WASHINGTON (AP)—Michael Jackson's publicist and general manager has filed a $44 million lawsuit against the pop star claiming he has not paid her for deals she's made.

Raymone Bain of Washington has been Jackson's spokeswoman for more than five years, speaking on his behalf in all sorts of matters including his child molestation trial. Three years ago, Jackson expanded her role by appointing her the head of the Michael Jackson Co. Inc. and his personal general manager.

In her lawsuit filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Washington, Bain says Jackson agreed to pay her 10 percent of any agreements that she handled. She says he didn't pay her for negotiating the release of a CD to commemorate the 25th anniversary of his "Thriller" album, refinancing his loan to keep the Beatles' song catalog, and negotiations that led to an upcoming sold-out concert series in London.

Bain is the latest in a string of former Jackson associates who have sued him claiming he didn't pay for their services.

"Despite the action I have been compelled to take for professional and business reasons, when looking back, I have no regrets," Bain said in a statement issued Wednesday. "Michael Jackson, in my opinion, is the 'King of Pop.'"

Urban tries to protect his daughter from cameras

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Keith Urban understands that paparazzi come along with the fame, but he draws a line when it comes to his infant daughter.

"I'm as protective of my family as any father and husband can be. It can be just a bit intrusive, you know," he said in a recent interview. "It's just a reality. I understand the society we live in. It's a bit odd at times in that regard."

Urban and his wife, Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman, had their first child, Sunday Rose, last July. He said the couple, who live in Nashville, do "what we can to keep (Sunday Rose) safe, because she didn't choose to come into this lifestyle.

"It's just what her mother and I do, so we do what we can to try and keep some civility about the whole thing."

Urban's new album, "Defying Gravity," produced the No. 1 country hit "Sweet Girl," and the second single, "Kiss a Girl," is No. 6 on the Billboard country chart. On Thursday, Urban kicks off his Escape Together World Tour in Uncasville, Conn.

The 41-year-old says the toughest part of touring is being away from his family. So he's making adjustments.

His tour bus is set up so they can travel with him as much as possible, and he's structured the schedule so he gets to go home frequently between shows.

AP

Yeardley Smith, the voice of Lisa Simpson, signs a poster at the unveiling of the new "The Simpsons" U.S. postage stamps at the Twenty Century Fox Studios in Los Angeles on Thursday, May 7, 2009.

'Simpsons' cast, crew unveil show's postal stamps

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Simpsons" now has the U.S. government's stamp of approval.

Crew and voice-cast members of the long-running animated series attended an unveiling Thursday of five "Simpsons" U.S. postage stamps at the Twentieth Century Fox lot in Los Angeles.

"Simpsons" producer James L. Brooks says the honor is "surreal."

The stamp issue is part of a yearlong Fox celebration dubbed "Best. 20 Years. Ever." honoring all things "Simpsons."

The show's 20th anniversary is on Jan. 14, 2010.

'Idol' contestant Matt Giraud back home in Mich.

AP

In this March 5, 2009 file photo, "American Idol" finalist Matt Giraud arrives at the American Idol Top 13 Party in Los Angeles.

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP)—Hundreds of people have turned out in Kalamazoo, Mich., to welcome home former "American Idol" contestant Matt Giraud (jir-AHD') at a public party.

Giraud wasn't able to perform at the event because of his "Idol" contract.

But his former band, Drop 35, and dueling piano singers from a restaurant where Giraud used to work did entertain the crowd.

The 23-year-old singer-pianist was voted off the popular Fox network singing competition last week. He finished in fifth place.

Several dozen fans greeted Giraud when he arrived Wednesday evening at the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport.

Giraud said he didn't expect so many people to be waiting to greet him. He signed autographs and posed for pictures for about 30 minutes.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

'I Wish I Had a Girl' singer arrested for meth

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Late-1980s pop artist Henry Lee Summer has been arrested in Indianapolis on methamphetamine possession and other charges. Summer was arrested Tuesday after police say he threw drugs from his car during a traffic stop. Officers who tried to pull him over for not using a turn signal say they needed pepper spray to subdue the singer, whose real name is Henry Lee Swartz. The 53-year-old scored two Top 20 hits in the late 1980s with "I Wish I Had a Girl (Who Walked Like That)" and his cover of the song "Hey Baby." He faces one count of meth possession, one count of obstruction of justice and two counts of resisting law enforcement. He was released Wednesday from the Marion County Jail pending a May 12 hearing.

Dolphins' new partner: Jimmy Buffett

MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Dolphins are renaming their home Landshark Stadium as part of a partnership with singer Jimmy Buffett. The name change from Dolphin Stadium is the fifth since the stadium opened in 1987. Buffett's Margaritaville enterprise includes Landshark Lager, brewed by Anheuser-Busch. Buffett and new Dolphins owner Stephen Ross are friends. They plan to unveil a new logo for the stadium at a private event Friday, where Buffett will perform a song inspired by the Dolphins. The stadium, which has lacked a corporate sponsor for several years, will be the site of the Super Bowl for the fifth time next February. It's the home for the Dolphins, Miami Hurricanes and Florida Marlins.

Dad's state of denial puts special-needs son at risk

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Jack" and I have been married 15 years. We have a 10-year-old son, "Cody," who has special needs. Since we first began exploring a diagnosis for our son, I have encouraged Jack to educate himself on the condition. At one point, Jack told me he wasn't interested.

He seldom accompanies us to therapy, although he has taken Cody when I have been sick. We recently had a medical emergency because Jack didn't know what medication Cody was supposed to take. I keep the information written on a list close to the supply cabinet, but he ignored it.

I have long been frustrated by Jack's lack of interest in our son's care. He accepts no responsibility when it comes to discipline, therapy or even personal care tasks.

I will soon be starting a new career, and I'm afraid about Cody's care in my absence. If I broach the subject with Jack, he says I don't give him credit for what he does do. (That's his usual response for anything I try to discuss with him.) We have tried family counseling, which helped only temporarily. Should we go back? I am really at a loss.

DESPAIRING IN OHIO

DEAR DESPAIRING: Your husband does not appear to have fully accepted that his son is different from other children. That would explain his lack of desire to learn about Cody's condition and his refusal to help with discipline, therapy, personal care or medications. You have my sympathy because you not only have your son to deal with, you have also had to compensate for your husband's retreat into denial.

A return to family counseling might be helpful. However, because you have reason to question the quality of care your son will receive in your absence, the funds might be better spent in finding responsible day care for your boy.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My stepsister, "Maya," and I became best friends during the four years that my mom and her dad were married. We shared a room during visitations and confided in each other about things we couldn't tell anyone else. We were as close as real sisters.

Mom and Maya's dad are now going through a bitter divorce because my stepdad had an affair. They communicate only through their lawyers, and Mom says we can have nothing more to do with "them." I think it's unfair to have the rug pulled out from under us over something that has nothing to do with Maya or me.

Against Mom's orders, I have been keeping in touch with my sister (and I mean that) through text messages and e-mails. If Mom finds out, I'll be in big trouble.

I know Mom has every reason to be angry with my stepdad, but I don't know why Maya and I should have to suffer. Please help.

MISSING MY BEST FRIEND

DEAR MISSING: I agree that it's unfair that you and Maya should be punished because of the nasty divorce. But right now your mother is hurt and angry, and she's not thinking rationally. Your mother may also be concerned that you might tell Maya something that she doesn't want Maya's father to know.

It might help if you explain your feelings to one of your mother's close friends or another family member who can help you make her understand the situation from your point of view. She may need to be reminded that the world doesn't revolve completely around her, and she's not the only person hurting in this divorce.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

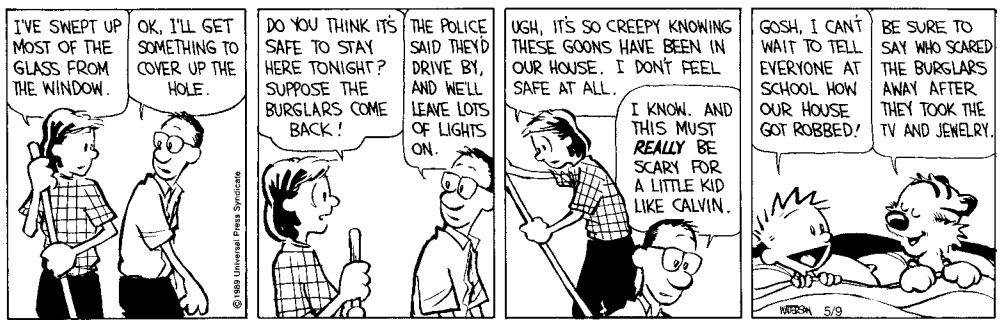
■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'VE SWEPT UP MOST OF THE GLASS FROM THE WINDOW.
OK, I'LL GET SOMETHING TO COVER UP THE HOLE.
DO YOU THINK IT'S SAFE TO STAY HERE TONIGHT? SUPPOSE THE BURGLARS COME BACK!
THE POLICE SAID THEY'D DRIVE BY, AND WE'LL LEAVE LOTS OF LIGHTS ON.
UGH, IT'S SO CREEPY KNOWING THESE GOONS HAVE BEEN IN OUR HOUSE. I DON'T FEEL SAFE AT ALL.
I KNOW. AND THIS MUST REALLY BE SCARY FOR A LITTLE KID LIKE CALVIN.
GOSH, I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL EVERYONE AT SCHOOL HOW OUR HOUSE GOT ROBBED!
BE SURE TO SAY WHO SCARED THE BURGLARS AWAY AFTER THEY TOOK THE TV AND JEWELRY.
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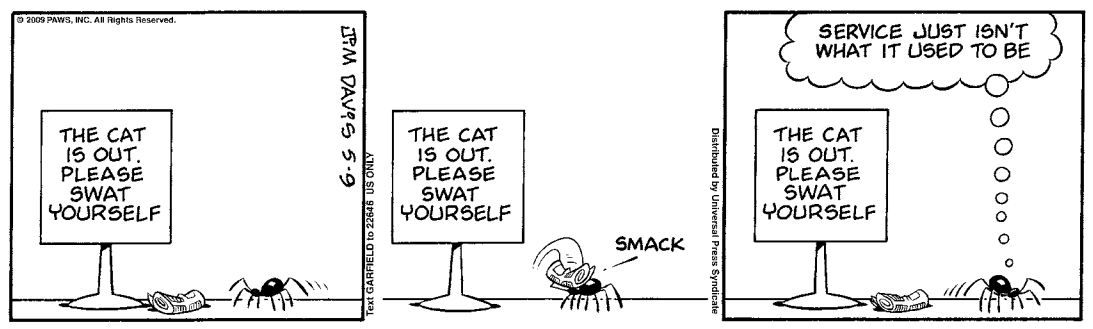
WATTERSON 5/9

Garfield®

By Jim Davis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JIM DAVIS 5-9
THE CAT IS OUT. PLEASE SWAT YOURSELF
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
THE CAT IS OUT. PLEASE SWAT YOURSELF
SMACK
SERVICE JUST ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE
THE CAT IS OUT. PLEASE SWAT YOURSELF
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SORRY YOU MISSED THE CHILI COOK-OFF.
YEAH, BUT THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR.
I DID GET MY ENTRY FEE BACK.
SHOULD WE GET SOMETHING NICE?
IT WAS ONLY $10.
WOULD WE BE BAD PARENTS IF WE BRIBED $5 EACH TO KATY AND CLAYTON FOR AN HOUR OF COMPLETE SILENCE?
I'D BE A WORSE PARENT WITHOUT THAT HOUR OF SILENCE.
www.goocomics.com
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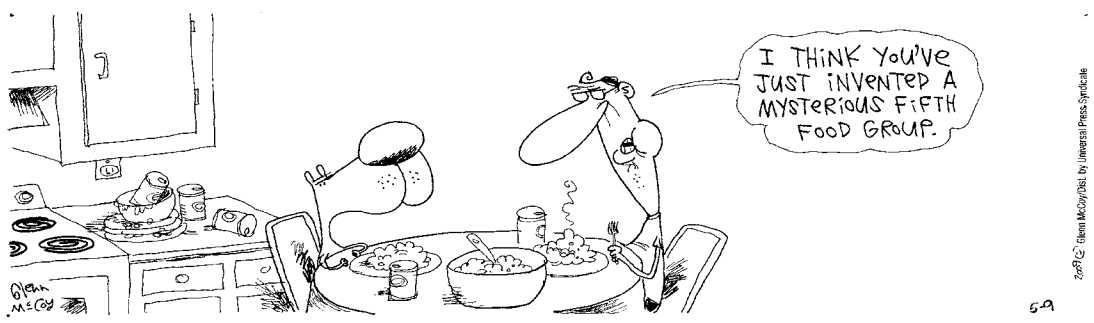
5-9

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Approximately
5 Valentine decoration
9 Scepter topper
12 Soothing agent
13 Piccadilly statue
14 Ultra-modernist
15 Alaska's first governor
16 Bloodline sharers
17 Craving
18 Bigfoot's cousin
19 2004 horror movie
20 Bar in a car
21 Sault-Marie link
23 Blueprint addition
25 Geronimo or Cochise
28 Serenader's selection
32 "A Prairie Home Companion" medium
33 Emulate Oksana Baiul
34 Tribal leader, often
36 Vocalist
37 "What's —?"
38 Ring decision
39 Pizzazz
42 Rocks
44 Piece of merchandise
48 Ostrich's cousin
49 Rodents do it
50 Rainbow
51 Woodman's makeup?
52 Shrek is one
53 Trawler gear
54 Deluge refuge
55 "Monopoly" card
56 Stare

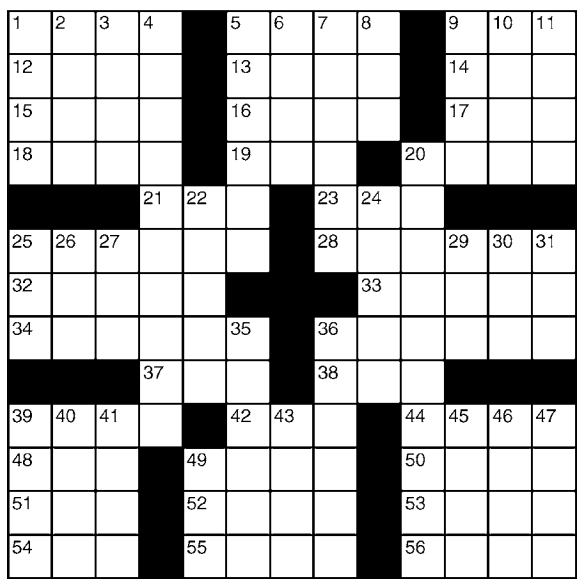
DOWN

1 Do what I tell you
2 Frenzy
3 Bedframe piece
4 All-knowing
5 Renter
6 Met melody
7 Bit of Halloween decor
8 Curvy character
9 Cameo stone
10 Spool
11 Skeletal component
20 What 4-Down means
22 Not these
24 Corneal surgery type
25 Exist
26 Crony
27 Toss into the mix
29 Trail the pack
30 Chowed down
31 Aachen article
35 Sudden sharp pain
36 Drunk
39 Catherine — -Jones
40 Eastern potentate
41 Gone to the bottom
43 Give a darn
45 Vicinity
46 Cracker or hotel name
47 Being, to Brutus
49 Pantheon member

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	S	H			P	A	P	A		E	N	O	S
B	I	O			E	K	E	S		R	A	G	E
U	P	S	T	A	I	R	S			R	I	L	E
			T	U	R	N				H	A	R	E	M
S	L	A	B	S			W	A	I	T				
P	A	G	E			C	O	R	S	A	I	R	S
U	K	E			W	O	R	M	S		M	O	A
D	E	S	P	A	I	R	S			S	M	O	G
				U	G	L	Y			M	A	U	D	E
C	U	F	F	S				E	A	R	N			
A	S	I	F			C	O	C	H	A	I	R	S
P	E	R	I			A	N	T	E		Z	O	O
E	D	E	N			P	O	O	R		E	E	L

Yesterday's answer 5-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Yzerman, 44; Billy Joel, 60; Candice Bergen, 63; Albert Finney, 73

Happy Birthday: You will have to fight to get the information you want and need. Your hard work will pay off. Contracts and partnerships may be on the line. Judge by what you see, not what you hear. Apply your experience to what you are trying to achieve and you will find success. Your numbers are 6, 14, 25, 32, 38, 40, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't give in to pressure. A little finesse and charm will go a long way. Incorporate one of your ideas into a prosperous venture. Get your friends to pitch in and help—what you have to offer will be in demand. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Taking on extra burdens may seem like a plan but you need to lessen your load, not add to it. Your emotions will be difficult to control and the people you care about most will suffer. Stop letting others take advantage of your kindness and your cash. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Avoid negative people. Focus on what you do best and have a little leisure time with the people you enjoy most. Put your problems behind you and ignore anyone trying to upset your day or your dreams. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Counting on someone's word will be a waste of time. If you want something done, do it yourself and don't complain. Your actions will make a statement that will put you in a position of control. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Be brave, jump into something that interests you and you will excel. Someone may try to discourage your efforts but only because of jealousy. Stand tall and proceed with confidence. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take charge and play it safe. Trust in your own judgment, not that of someone who wants to take advantage of your hard-earned cash. Stay in control. Personally supervise any work being done for you. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may think you need something to improve your looks but don't fall for a fast-cash scheme. There are no free rides, especially when it comes to self-improvement. Plan to do something with someone you love that will make your task easier. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Letting someone put doubt in your mind will slow you down and hold you back. Believe in what you know you can do. Emotional matters will be based on false information. Get out amid people who share your interests. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Time spent with someone you care for will help you come to a very important decision. Make some alterations at home to accommodate someone who has been waiting patiently for you to make a move. Don't let a burden you've taken on stand in your way. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be plotting and planning your next move. You are in a good position to negotiate and get what you want. Residential changes will benefit you personally and financially. Don't let someone fearful of change alter your plans. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You don't have to make up your mind if you aren't sure what to do next. Question anyone pressuring you to move forward. Time is on your side, allowing you to do the research required to feel comfortable making a permanent decision. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Consider how content you are with your current position. Living in the past can be a reality if you pick up the pieces and make plans to reinstate some of the things you enjoyed doing. You are ready for a change so get moving. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are possessive and loyal. You boldly take action and will help a worthy underdog. You are strong-willed.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6				2	4		5
8					1			
				5				7
							2	6
		2		1		9		
3	7							
2				9				
			7					8
1		3	2				4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	7	3	9	2	8	6	4
6	3	9	8	4	5	7	1	2
2	8	4	7	1	6	3	9	5
9	4	3	2	5	7	1	8	6
8	5	1	6	3	4	2	7	9
7	6	2	9	8	1	5	4	3
4	7	6	1	2	3	9	5	8
1	2	8	5	6	9	4	3	7
3	9	5	4	7	8	6	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/08

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MING DYNASTY ANTIQUES Solution: 10 letters

S	S	G	U	R	B	T	H	R	O	N	E	T	R	H
S	S	C	E	R	A	M	I	C	U	C	S	R	U	E
E	E	T	O	L	O	R	O	N	E	I	H	A	L	I
L	P	A	E	T	C	N	E	T	O	A	N	U	I	R
E	H	O	I	L	D	T	H	A	N	G	K	A	N	L
C	G	F	R	I	U	N	T	S	H	E	A	I	G	O
I	S	A	T	C	I	M	Y	U	B	S	Y	R	E	O
R	P	I	T	C	E	R	A	A	(E)	N	R	A	D	M
P	O	S	P	N	E	L	M	S	I	(R)	N	A	A	U
N	W	E	T	T	I	B	A	P	J	C	(A)	A	J	E
A	E	X	T	C	O	V	L	I	I	N	I	(S)	E	S
R	R	O	M	O	N	U	M	E	N	T	O	L	W	U
T	P	B	E	N	I	U	N	E	G	S	E	I	E	M
S	T	C	A	F	I	T	R	A	L	A	Y	O	L	R
K	L	I	S	R	O	T	S	E	C	N	A	I	S	A

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Amulets, Ancestors, Ancient, Artifacts, Arts, Asian, Bamboo, Beijing, Boxes, Ceramic, Chao, Chun, Condition, Dragon, Eras, Ethnic, Genuine, Hans, Heirloom, Huanghuali, Jade, Jars, Jewels, Lion, Loyal, Monument, Motifs, Museum, Pinyin, Porcelains, Pottery, Power, Priceless, Rare, Relic, Rugs, Ruin, Ruling, Silk, Tale, Taoist, Thangka, Throne, Tomb, Vase, Vintage

Yesterday's Answer: Walker

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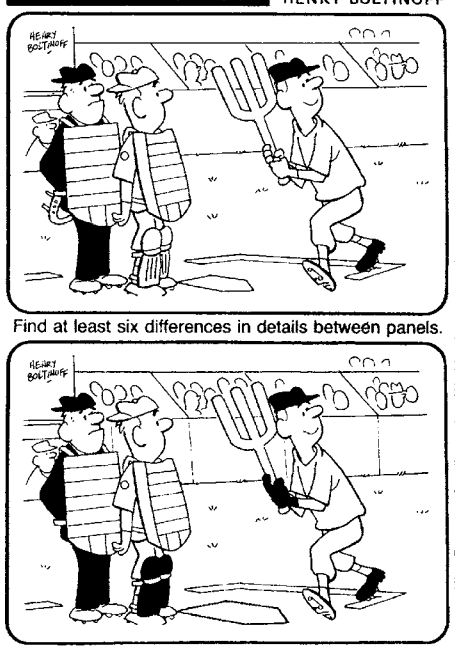
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Batter is wearing gloves. 2. Shin guards are different. 3. Home plate is larger. 4. Umpire's mask is missing. 5. Stands are different. 6. More fans are added to crowd.

Wishing Well®

4	3	4	7	4	5	8	6	2	5	8	4	7
Y	W	O	D	U	A	B	Y	G	B	O	A	I
5	3	5	3	4	3	8	4	6	3	5	6	4
U	I	N	D	T	E	S	T	O	N	D	U	A
6	5	8	6	4	3	5	2	5	7	4	3	8
A	A	S	R	I	T	N	R	T	S	N	H	S
5	6	3	6	5	4	7	6	3	7	4	7	3
W	E	O	P	E	G	P	E	U	E	O	L	G
7	6	4	8	3	8	5	6	3	5	3	6	4
I	R	A	A	H	Y	A	S	T	L	S	U	L
2	6	7	4	7	5	6	5	8	7	2	8	6
E	A	L	S	L	T	S	H	S	U	A	Y	I
2	8	2	6	8	7	6	7	2	7	2	7	2
T	E	J	V	S	S	E	I	O	O	Y	N	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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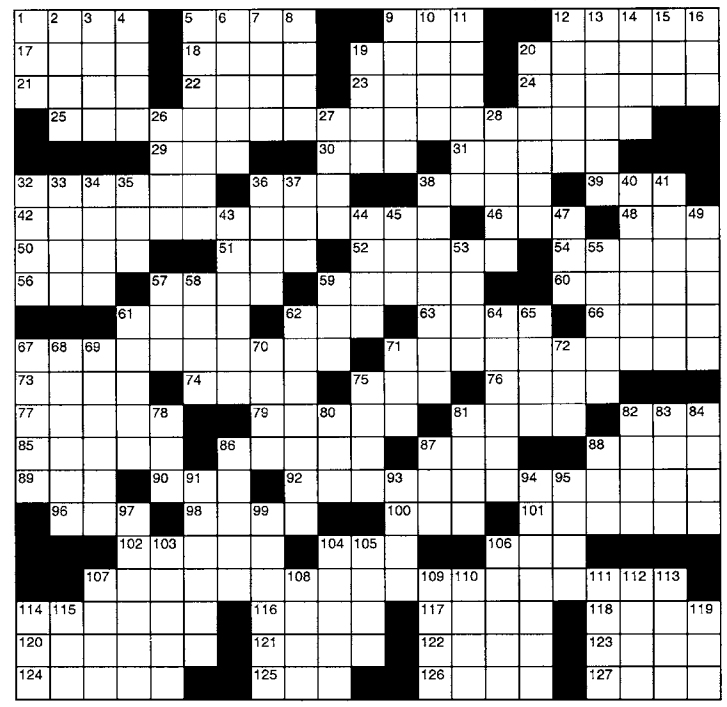
Super Crossword

ANIMAL GROUPS

ACROSS
1 Rover's remark
5 Pleat
9 Plead
12 Wooden pin
17 Baseball's Vizquel
18 Portrait painter John
19 Pakistani language
20 Flaunt
21 Small hawk
22 Descartes or Levesque
23 Trusting sort
24 Loath
25 "I Think I Love You" group
29 Khan opener?
30 Figs.
31 Fosters a felon
32 Avoid an accident
36 Poetic contraction
38 Way off base?
39 Pixie
42 "Joy to the World" group
46 Swimmer Thorpe
48 Supper scrap
50 Meat cut
51 Fix a fight
52 Mercury, for one
54 Dwight's competition
56 Acorn, eventually
57 Enthusiasts
59 Trite
60 "— Break" ('91 film)
61 Director Kazan
62 Sister
63 Amontillado container
66 Yen
67 "Happy Together" group
71 "Here I Go Again" group
73 Actress Lillian
74 Line of clothing?
75 "The Simpsons" bartender
76 "The Avengers" star
77 Wan
79 "Moll Flanders" author
81 Sour
82 Toody or Muldoon
85 Musty
86 "Iron Mike"
87 Onassis' nickname
88 Hermes' mom
89 Russell or Wahl
90 WWII area
92 "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida" group
96 Rocker Claypool
98 They may be split
100 Shoe width
101 Evaluate
102 Sweatshirt size
104 Botanist Gray
106 "Birds — feather . . ."
107 "For What It's Worth" group
114 Imam's subject
116 Skeleton part
117 Cordelia or Edith Bunker
118 Sink or swim?
120 Bundle
121 Valley
122 "— Around" ('64 hit)
123 Notion
124 Cabinet wood
125 Canal zone?
126 Word with biscuit or jerk
127 Suburban obsession

DOWN
1 Hunan pan
2 Skip
3 Inauguration Day event
4 Liberate
5 Scrounged around
6 Beethoven wrote one
7 Navel store?
8 Mailer's "The — Park"
9 Betters oneself, in a way
10 Falco of "The Sopranos"
11 Loud laugh
12 Cargo crane
13 Threat words
14 Guarded
15 Mag. bigwigs
16 Golfer Trevino
19 Reverse
20 Richardson novel
26 Macadamize
27 Cross inscription
28 Extremely hot
32 Normandy site
33 "Hold your horses!"
34 Palladino of "ER"
35 Stimpy's pal
36 Protection
37 Chang's sib
38 Lawyer's case?
40 '62 Kubrick film
41 Composer Cesar
43 Rococo
44 Fed
45 Party animal?
47 Doze
49 Church offering
53 Jai —
55 "Nothing —!"
57 Winter malady
58 Pretension
59 Kramden's vehicle
61 One of the Barrymores
62 Downfall
64 Channel
65 Actor Dullea
67 Country singer Diana
68 Inn
69 Petroleum component
70 Chatterley or Windermere
71 "— is me!"
72 Bilko's rank: abbr.
75 Non-stereo
78 Born
80 In place of
81 Real
82 Java joint
83 Art medium
84 Actress Amanda
86 Friendly Islands
87 Novelist Kobo
88 "— Doubtfire" ('93 film)
91 Bass-baritone Bryn
93 Imminent
94 Lustrous fabric
95 Morales of "La Bamba"
97 Channel
99 Genesis disaster
103 Out to get
104 Ed of "Rosie O'Neill"
105 Extend across
106 Inspected too closely?
107 Tweeter
108 — podrida
109 Spring flower
110 Inoperative
111 Depraved
112 A swan was her swain
113 Sketched
114 Hydro-therapy site
115 Porter or Prince
119 Outlaw



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Which literary character grew up at 4 Privet Drive?
2. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "pan" mean?
3. SCIENCE: What is the primary substance that makes up most of a plant's cell walls?
4. AD SLOGANS: What product's sales slogan was: "Tastes so good, cats ask for it by name"?
5. MYTHOLOGY: What does the Greek goddess Iris personify?
6. ENTERTAINERS: What was the name of singer Michael Jackson's famous California estate?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the adjective used to describe bees?
8. ANATOMY: What is the correct medical name of the shoulder blade?
9. MOVIES: What is a "Close Encounter of the Third Kind"?
10. MUSIC: How many keys are on a standard piano?

Answers

1. Harry Potter
2. All
3. Cellulose
4. Meow Mix
5. The rainbow
6. Neverland
7. Avian
8. Scapula
9. Contact with an alien being
10. 88

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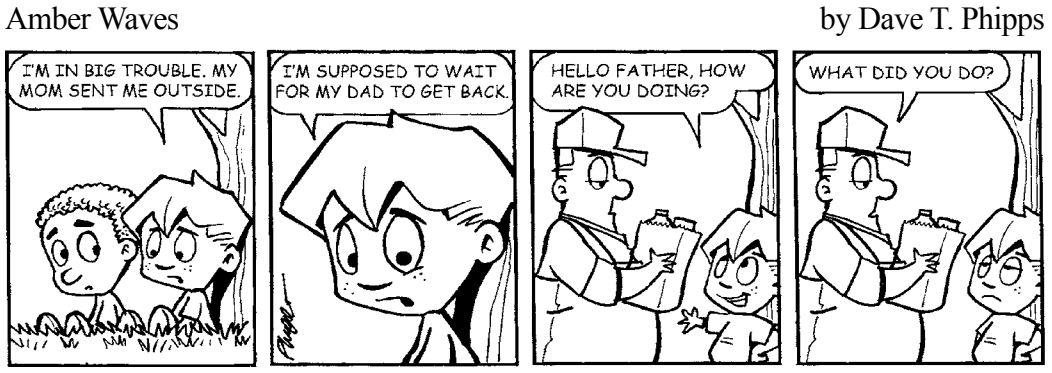
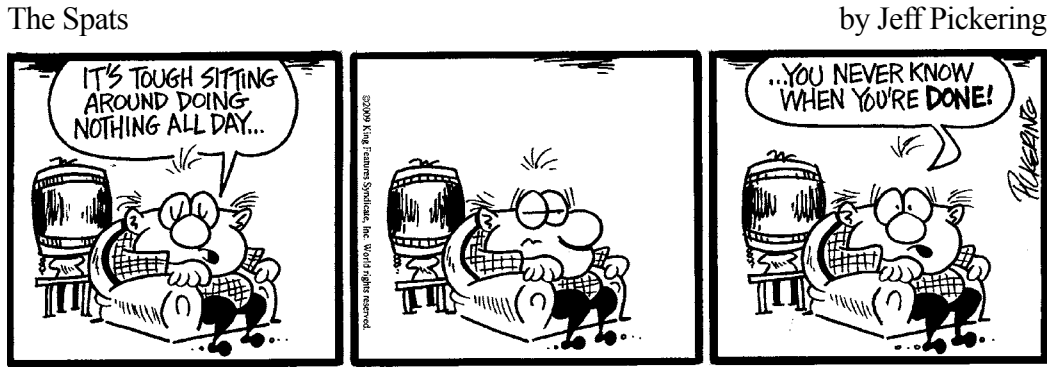
Saturday's Answers

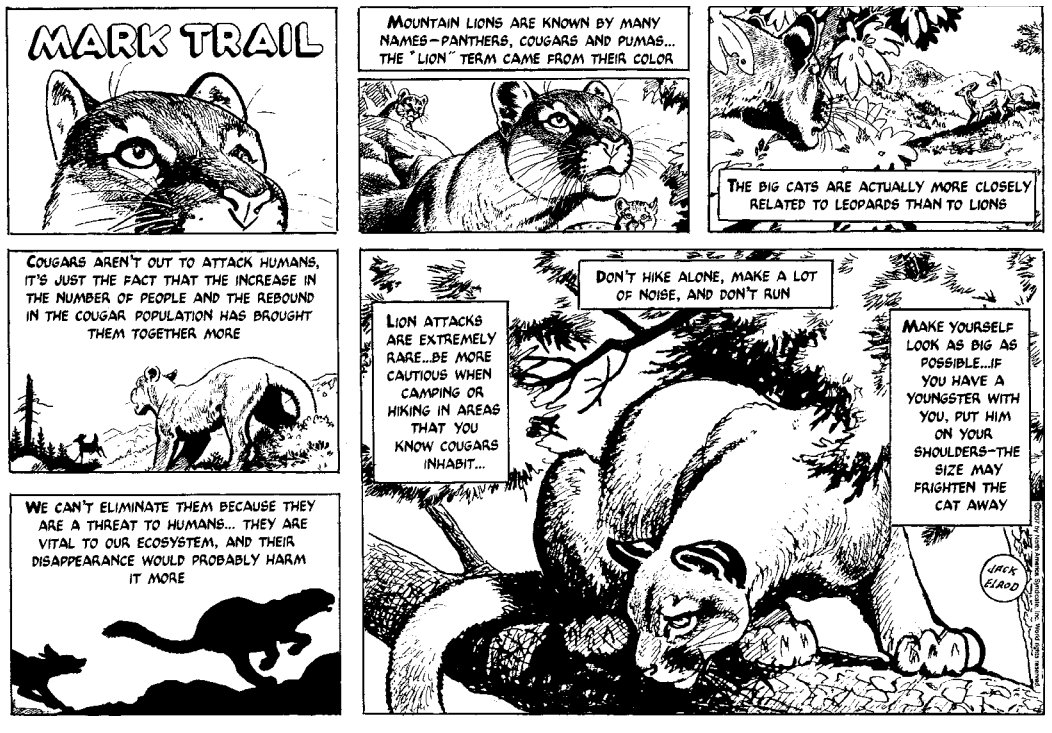
POPEYE
HEY EISMAN
NO, POPEYE, I'M NOT GOING FISHING WITH YOU!
WHY NOT?
I'VE BETTER THINGS TO DO WITH MY TIME!
WOT IS YA GONNA DO INSTEAD?
I'VE TAKEN UP GOLF!
GOLF?! WOT D'YA KNOW 'BOUT GOLF?
A GOLF PRO IS TEACHING ME THE GAME!
AND HE'S VERY PLEASED WITH MY PROGRESS!
WHEN DIDJA PLAY?
YESTERDAY WAS MY FIRST DAY!
WOT WUZ YER SCORE?
I SHOT A 72 AND HE WAS AMAZED!
72?! WOT D'YA NEED A PRO FER?
BECAUSE TODAY HE'S GOING TO SHOW ME HOW TO PLAY THE SECOND HOLE!

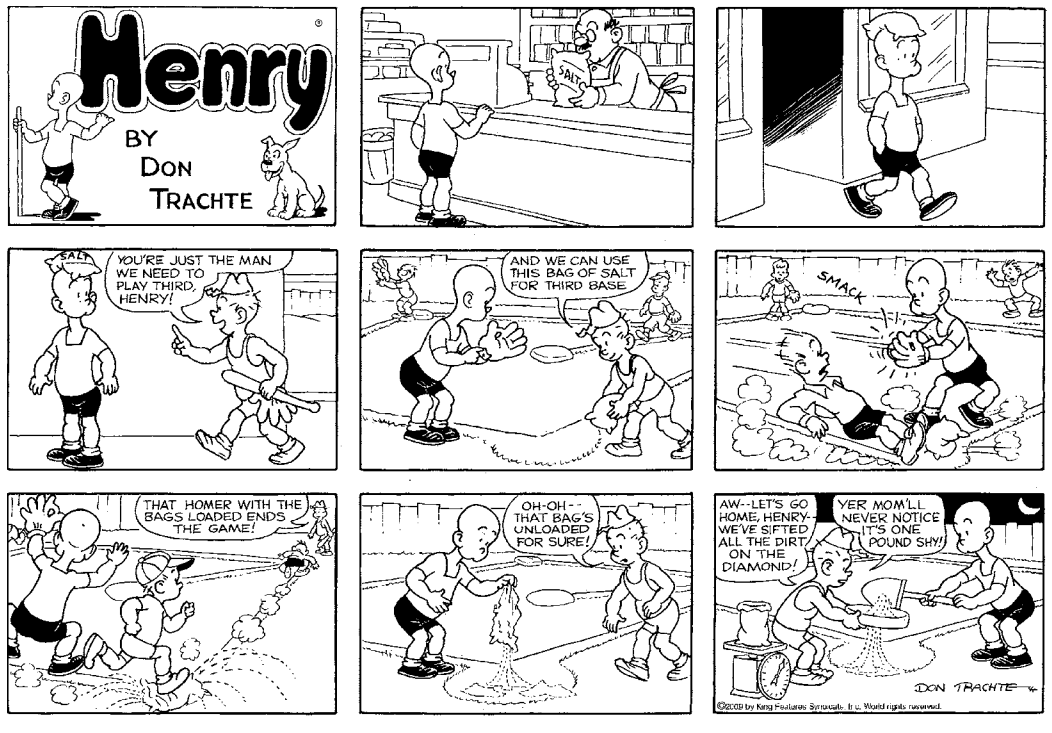
Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps


I'M IN BIG TROUBLE. MY MOM SENT ME OUTSIDE.
I'M SUPPOSED TO WAIT FOR MY DAD TO GET BACK.
HELLO FATHER, HOW ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT DID YOU DO?

The Spats by Jeff Pickering




MARK TRAIL
MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE KNOWN BY MANY NAMES—PANTHERS, COUGARS AND PUMAS... THE "LION" TERM CAME FROM THEIR COLOR
THE BIG CATS ARE ACTUALLY MORE CLOSELY RELATED TO LEOPARDS THAN TO LIONS
COUGARS AREN'T OUT TO ATTACK HUMANS, IT'S JUST THE FACT THAT THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND THE REBOUND IN THE COUGAR POPULATION HAS BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER MORE
DON'T HIKE ALONE, MAKE A LOT OF NOISE, AND DON'T RUN
LION ATTACKS ARE EXTREMELY RARE...BE MORE CAUTIOUS WHEN CAMPING OR HIKING IN AREAS THAT YOU KNOW COUGARS INHABIT...
MAKE YOURSELF LOOK AS BIG AS POSSIBLE...IF YOU HAVE A YOUNGSTER WITH YOU, PUT HIM ON YOUR SHOULDERS—THE SIZE MAY FRIGHTEN THE CAT AWAY
JACK ELROD
WE CAN'T ELIMINATE THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE A THREAT TO HUMANS... THEY ARE VITAL TO OUR ECOSYSTEM, AND THEIR DISAPPEARANCE WOULD PROBABLY HARM IT MORE


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
SALT
YOU'RE JUST THE MAN WE NEED TO PLAY THIRD, HENRY!
AND WE CAN USE THIS BAG OF SALT FOR THIRD BASE
SMACK
THAT HOMER WITH THE BAGS LOADED ENDS THE GAME!
OH-OH-- THAT BAG'S UNLOADED FOR SURE!
AW--LET'S GO HOME, HENRY-- WE'VE SIFTED ALL THE DIRT ON THE DIAMOND!
YER MOM'LL NEVER NOTICE IT'S ONE POUND SHY!
DON TRACHTE

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

MOVING SALE

Everything must go. 1991 Toyota Land Cruiser $1,800. 32 LCD TV, 300watt DVD, CD surround system and quality glass stand $800. Fishing gear, microwave, laptop, ice chest, best offer. Contact Ken 322-0961.

FOR SALE

Tired of blackouts? For sale new Xantrex 2,400VA inverter charger. Best on the market. Will supply uninterupted power throughout typhoons and the daily outages soon to come with the end of the Aggreko contract. $1,200. Contact Ken 322-0961.

FOR SALE - COMMERCIAL

USSP Club, Garapan. The local crowd spot. On Sale $75000. Or Best Offer. Grab a partner and be the next owner! Call Rose @ 286-7653/233-1984. Leaving island.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

House for Rent: 4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bathroom. Located in As Lito. For more info call 287-1984

EMPLOYMENT

Seeking experienced autobody repairer. Must be experienced with rust repairs, some paint experienced preferred. Contact 287-7785.

AUTOMOTIVE

96 or Newer Truck. Must have A/C. Must in reasonable condition. Call 287-7785.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

A food service management company is looking for qualified applicants for school year 2009 - 2010 for the following position:

- **Cook**
- **Food Handler**
- **Kitchen Helper**
- **Dishwasher**
- **Commercial Cleaner**

Please mail in your application to P.O. Box 7965 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 or Email to maricel_divina@yahoo.com

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Accountant immediately
Send resume to:
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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
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2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAG
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joins Micronesia su
OPINION METER
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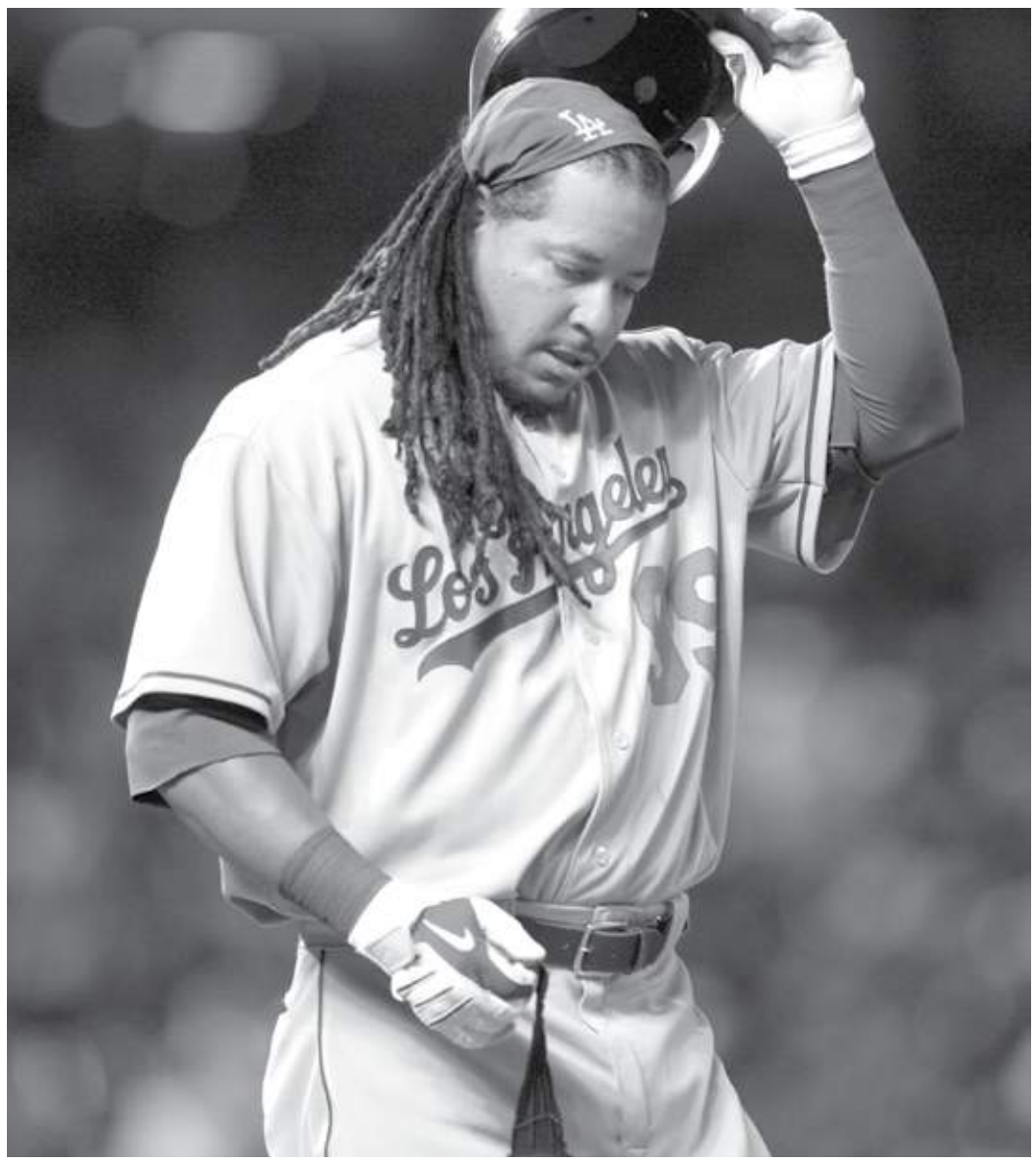
Ramirez suspended 50 games for drug violation



Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Ramirez pulls off his helmet after flying out against the Colorado Rockies to end the top of the eighth inning of the Dodgers' 6-5 victory in a baseball game in Denver on Saturday, April 25, 2009.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Manny Ramirez joined a growing lineup of All-Stars linked to drugs Thursday, with the dreadlocked slugger banished for 50 games by a sport that cannot shake free from scandal.

The Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder was suspended by Major League Baseball for a drug violation, adding a further stamp to what will forever be known as the Steroids Era.

"It's a dark day for baseball and certainly for this organization," Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti told reporters on the field at Dodger Stadium. "This organization will never condone anything that isn't clean."

Ramirez said he did not take steroids and was given medication by a doctor that contained a banned substance. A person familiar with the details of the suspension said Ramirez used the female fertility drug HCG, or human chorionic gonadotropin. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the banned substance wasn't announced.

"As tough as it is for us, it's pretty tough for Manny, too," Dodgers manager Joe Torre said. "I know he's the one that did the wrong thing and nobody is trying to cover that up, but it's still something that I know he's sorry about."

HCG is popular among steroid users because it can mitigate the side effects of ending a cycle of the drugs. The body may stop producing testosterone when users go off steroids, which can cause sperm counts to decrease and testicles to shrink.

Ramirez's suspension was based not on a spring training urine test result but rather evidence obtained afterward, a second person familiar with the suspension said, speaking on condition of anonymity because those details were not released. MLB had concluded the spring test was positive, but the person said the players' association would have challenged the result because of "testing issues."

Ranked 17th on the career home run list with 533, Ramirez became the most prominent baseball player to be penalized for drugs. His ban came three months after Alex Rodriguez admitted using steroids, and at a time when Barry Bonds is under federal indictment and Roger Clemens is being investigated by a federal grand jury to determine whether he lied when he told Congress he never used steroids or human growth hormone. And Miguel Tejada was sentenced in March to one year of probation after pleading guilty in federal court to misleading Congress about the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

No matter which way baseball turns, the legitimacy of many of its recent home run and pitching records is being questioned. Sluggers Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa have been tainted by steroid allegations, Rafael Palmeiro tested positive for a banned drug and Jose Canseco said he used them.

In every case, players once believed to be locks for the Hall of Fame may now be locked out.

"You can't have arguably the greatest pitcher of our era, arguably the two greatest players of our era and now another very, very good player be under this cloud of suspicion and not feel like it has ruined it for everybody," Atlanta star Chipper Jones said.

"But what are you going to do? You can't be born in a different era. It is the Steroid Era," he said.

Colletti and Torre said they found out about Ramirez's suspension during an early morning phone call from team owner Frank McCourt. Both said they were surprised and saddened at the news.

Torre spoke to the rest of the team during a closed-door meeting before batting practice.

"The mood was sad in the clubhouse," he said. "You can't have someone who's as much of an impact player and personality as Manny missing without it affecting people."

The 36-year-old Ramirez tried to make amends right away, telling the Dodgers and fans he was sorry for "this whole situation."

"Recently, I saw a physician for a personal health issue. He gave me a medication, not a steroid, which he thought was OK to give me," Ramirez said in a statement issued by the players' union.

"Unfortunately, the medication was banned under our drug policy. Under the policy that mistake is now my responsibility. I have been advised not to say anything more for now. I do want to say one other thing; I've taken and passed about 15 drug tests over the past five seasons."

Baseball added HCG to its list of banned substances last year.

His suspension was first reported by the Los Angeles Times on its Web site.

While Ramirez had little to say, Canseco was quick to explain why someone might use HCG.

"It could be that a player used it because he used steroids and went cold-turkey and needed HCG to get his levels back to normal. I had to use it when I quit steroids cold-turkey," Canseco, who pleaded guilty last November to a misdemeanor of trying to bring HCG across the Mexican border into the United States illegally, told the AP. "I had to go to a doctor to get it and get my levels back."

Because MLB imposed the suspension as required by the drug agreement, the Dodgers cannot further discipline Ramirez. He is allowed to work out with the Dodgers but must be out of uniform when the stadium gates open for games.

Ramirez was not mentioned in the Mitchell Report, MLB's official report on drug use, and there had not been whispers that he was among the sport's juiced players.

"It's kind of shocking that he got caught up in anything, honestly. Manny likes to play stupid, but he's a pretty bright guy. And he's definitely aware of a lot of things that he tries to act like he's completely oblivious to," said Cincinnati pitcher Bronson Arroyo, Ramirez's former Boston teammate.

Ramirez's agent, Scott Boras, and the players' association had gathered materials for a possible appeal to an arbitrator, but Ramirez decided not to file one because he didn't want to risk missing significant time in the second half of the season, the person familiar with details of the suspension said. The union said merely that he waived his right to contest the suspension.

Reaction to Ramirez's ban came swiftly, from major league clubhouses to the White House.

"It's a tragedy. It's a shame. My sense is, it's a great embarrassment on Major League Baseball," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said.

The penalty left the best team in the majors without its driving force and free spirit for nearly one-third of the season.

Ramirez's suspension began Thursday, a day after the Dodgers broke the modern major league record for a home winning streak, opening the season 13-0. They lost to Washington 11-9 on Thursday night.

Barring any postponements, he will be able to return to the Dodgers for the July 3 game at San Diego. Ramirez will lose $7,650,273 of his $25 million salary.

Rodriguez and Ramirez are the two highest-paid players in the majors. With this suspension, six of the top 17 home run hitters in history now have been covered by the cloud of performance-enhancing drugs.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig couldn't comment on the suspension because of provisions of the management-union drug agreement, spokesman Rich Levin said.

Ramirez became the fourth player suspended this year under the major league program, following Philadelphia reliever J.C. Romero, Yankees pitcher Sergio Mitre and San Francisco pitcher Kelvin Pichardo.

Record 12-run inning lifts Boston over Cleveland

BOSTON (AP)—The Red Sox tied a modern major league record with 12 runs in an inning before making an out and Tim Wakefield won his fourth straight decision as Boston routed Cleveland, 13-3, on Thursday night.

Jason Bay hit a three-run homer and an RBI double and four other batters had two-run hits in the sixth when the Red Sox obliterated a 2-1 deficit.

Rays 8, Yankees 6

At New York, Mariano Rivera gave up home runs to consecutive batters for the first time in his major league career, with Carl Crawford and Evan Longoria connecting in the ninth inning as surging Tampa Bay handed the Yankees their fifth consecutive loss.

White Sox 6, Tigers 0

At Chicago, Mark Buehrle was perfect into the seventh inning and allowed one hit over eight innings, leading the White Sox over Detroit. Placido Polanco's one-out double ended the 30-year-old left-hander's bid for a perfect game. Buehrle pitched a no-hitter April 18, 2007, against Texas.

Royals 3, Mariners 1

At Kansas City, Mo., Brian Bannister worked six scoreless innings to outpitch Jarrod Washburn and the Royals extended their winning streak to six games.

Athletics 9, Rangers 4

At Oakland, Calif., Jack Cust hit a grand slam and Matt Holliday added a three-run shot for Oakland.

Bobby Crosby had three hits and drove in a run as the A's snapped a four-game losing streak and got starter Trevor Cahill his first major league win.

Orioles 5, Twins 4

At Baltimore, Lou Montanez singled in Melvin Mora with the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning and Baltimore defeated Minnesota for a two-game sweep.

Angels 6, Blue Jays 1

At Anaheim, Calif., Jered Weaver allowed three hits in his first career complete game as Los Angeles cruised to its fourth win in its last five games.

Mets 7, Phils 5

At New York, Carlos Beltran and David Wright each hit a two-run homer in the first inning, and the Mets beat Philadelphia on Thursday night for their fourth consecutive victory.

Braves 4, Marlins 2

At Miami, Jair Jurrjens gave up three hits in seven innings to help the Braves complete a two-game sweep of the slumping Florida Marlins, 4-2.

Reds 6, Brewers 5

At Cincinnati, right-hander Micah Owings pitched six innings and had a tiebreaking triple for the Reds, who were missing two starters out with the flu.

Cards 5, Pirates 2

At St. Louis, Todd Wellemeyer threw seven innings of four-hit ball and Jason LaRue hit a go-ahead homer in the fifth, leading St. Louis to the win.

Padres 4, D-backs 3

At San Diego, David Eckstein singled in the winning run for San Diego with one out in the 10th inning as the Padres won for just the fourth time in 17 games.

After the game, the Diamondbacks fired manager Bob Melvin.

Cubs 8, Astros 5

At Houston, Alfonso Soriano homered twice to lead Chicago to the two-game sweep.

Mike Fontenot had two RBIs and Milton Bradley, Micah Hoffpauir and Aramis Ramirez all drove in a run for the Cubs.

Nationals 11, Dodgers 9

At Los Angeles, Nick Johnson and Adam Dunn each had three RBIs, and the Nationals rallied for 10 runs in the final three innings to beat the Dodgers in the first game of Manny Ramirez's 50-game drug suspension.

LeBron, Cavs coast past Hawks, 105-85

CLEVELAND (AP)—While the rest of the NBA exchanges elbows, flagrant fouls and menacing stares in the playoffs, the Cleveland Cavaliers are looking for a fight.

So far, they can't find one.

LeBron James scored 27 points, ending the first and second quarters with last-second baskets, and Mo Williams added 15 points as the untested Cavs overpowered the Atlanta Hawks 105-85 on Thursday night to open a 2-0 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal.

Now a perfect 6-0 in the postseason, the Cavaliers tied a league record by winning their sixth consecutive playoff game by double digits. The only other team to do it was the 2004 Indiana Pacers.

Maurice Evans scored 16 points and Mike Bibby had 11 for the Hawks, who were missing center Al Horford and forward Marvin Williams because of injuries. If that wasn't bad enough, leading scorer Joe Johnson rolled his right ankle in the third quarter and did not return.

X-rays were negative and the Hawks said Johnson is doubtful for Game 3 on Saturday in Atlanta.

Just like Game 1, this one was easy for the Cavs. Too easy.

In his second game since being named MVP, James dropped a long 3-pointer in the final second of the first half as the Cavaliers opened a 24-point lead that swelled to 36 in the third. James and the Cavaliers starters spent the entire fourth quarter lounging on the bench as Atlanta's reserves outplayed the Cavs' backups in 12 minutes of garbage time to make the score respectable.

"Defense," James said when asked how the Cavs dominated. "That has been us throughout the whole series and the whole playoffs. When we get D stops it's easy to execute on offense.

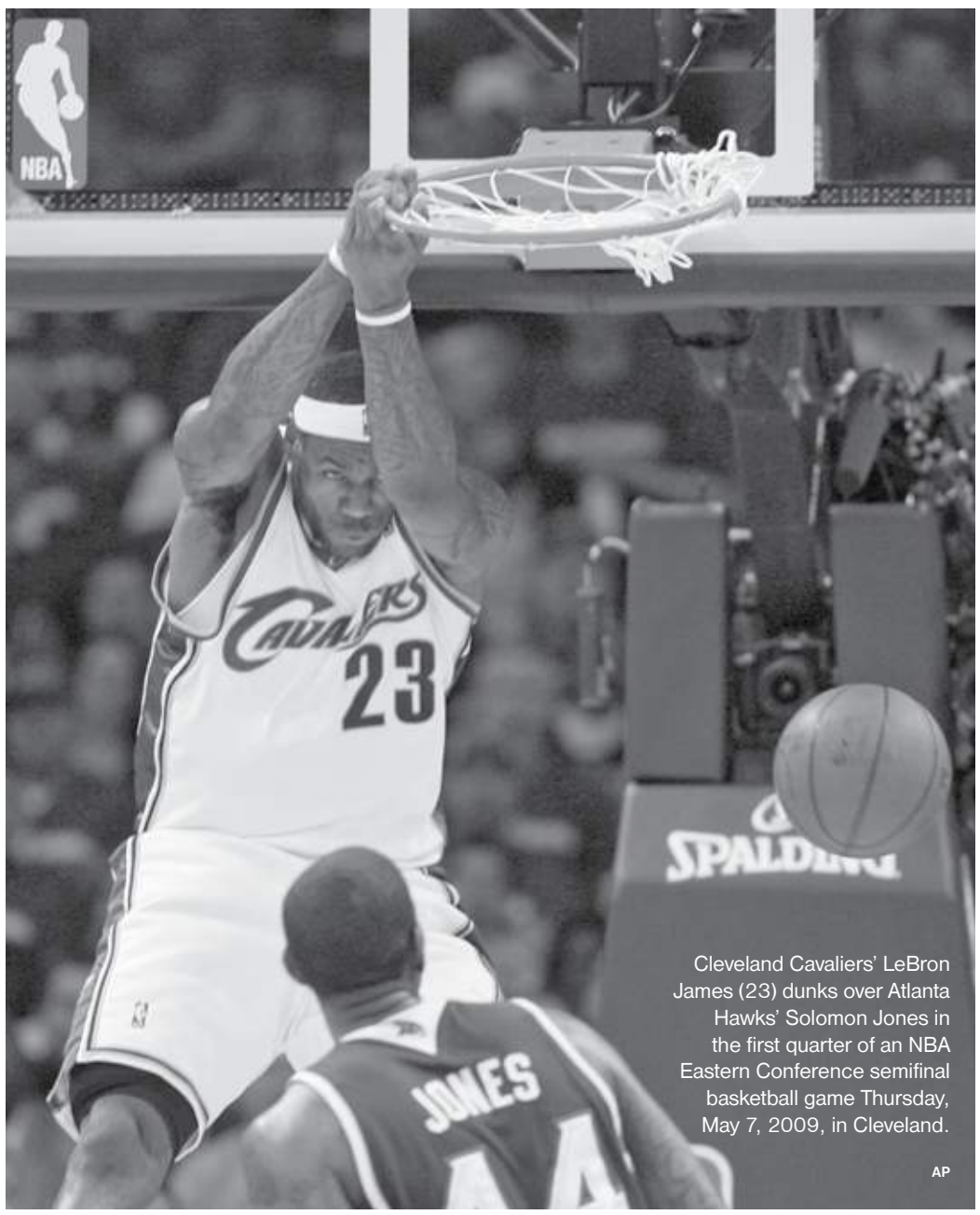
"We had great defense ... and then we got some great looks on the other end."

The best-of-seven series switches to Atlanta's Philips Arena, where the Hawks went 31-10 during the regular season and beat Cleveland once. That was back on Dec. 13, when the Cavaliers were just finding out how good they were and the Hawks were at full strength.

Nearly five months later, things have changed. The Cavs are 43-2 at home, 32-5 since the All-Star break, and playing their best ball.

"We are a confident ballclub, we believe we can win on the road as well as at home," James said. "It will be a hostile environment, but we know we can handle that."

Cleveland has been the league's most dominant team in the postseason. The Cavs blew through Detroit in four games and have barely broken a sweat against the overmatched Hawks, who haven't figured out to slow James—or any of his teammates—and have struggled to score.



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) dunks over Atlanta Hawks' Solomon Jones in the first quarter of an NBA Eastern Conference semifinal basketball game Thursday, May 7, 2009, in Cleveland.

AP

Atlanta was hurting before the game got under way. Horford (sprained ankle) and Williams (sprained wrist) didn't dress and Johnson was taken to Atlanta's locker room in a wheelchair. It's not known if any of the three will be available for the remainder of the series.

It may not matter.

On the 20th anniversary of Michael Jordan's jumper—known around here as "The Shot"—over Craig Ehlo that beat the Cavaliers in the 1989 playoffs, James gave Cleveland fans a shot to remember.

Taking an inbounds pass with 5.4 seconds left in the first half, James quickly dribbled into the frontcourt, pulled up on Hawks guard Mario West and drilled a 36-footer to make it 59-35. As 20,000-plus fans erupted, James stood still after the horn sounded, playfully swinging his arms back and forth.

The Cavs wasted no time putting the Hawks away in the third. James hit a 3-pointer to push Cleveland's lead to 30 and fed Zydrunas Ilgauskas for a basket that made it 83-47.

Anderson Varejao and Ilgauskas were non-factors in Game 1, combining for 11 points on 4-of-17 shooting. But Cleveland's two big men scored eight in the first quarter as the Cavs opened a 26-17 lead.

Report: Favre tells Childress he's still retired

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—For Brad Childress, it was just another day at the office. And, for now, Brett Favre is not wearing purple.

The Minnesota Vikings' dalliance with the supposedly retired quarterback didn't reach the stage of face-to-face, close-the-deal talks Thursday—and maybe they never will.

Yahoo! Sports reported that Favre called Childress sometime Wednesday or early Thursday and told the coach he wants to stay retired. Favre's longtime agent, Bus Cook, reiterated for the second straight day that his famously fickle client hadn't changed his plan to stay out of the game.

ESPN and *USA Today* said Cook told reporters in Mississippi, where Favre lives, that the former MVP was still retired—though the agent added that Favre could always change his mind in the future.

One certainty was Childress spent office hours at work in Minnesota.

After reports the coach was to travel south for discussions with Favre, Twin Cities television station KMSP broadcast video of his early-morning arrival at Winter Park.

The coach's black sports utility vehicle was still parked at the team's facility in suburban Minneapolis into the evening, and through a team spokesman he declined comment to a handful of media across the street.

Yahoo cited an unidentified source close to the team in reporting that the Vikings won't sign the 39-year-old quarterback, who owns many of the NFL's major passing records.

If that holds true, and Favre doesn't come back to fill the only glaring hole on an otherwise Super Bowl-ready roster, can the Vikings win under the original plan of having Tarvaris Jackson and Sage Rosenfels compete for the quarterback job?

No problem, said All-Pro defensive end Jared Allen.

"Our plan never revolved around him," Allen told The Associated Press by phone. "He's obviously a heck of a player. If he wants to stay retired, more power to him. Our offseason goals were never about whether or not we would acquire Brett Favre. Our goals are still the same: to win the division, make the playoffs and see how far we can go. I think our team has all the confidence in the world we can do that."

Allen, one of the leaders in the Vikings locker room, expressed confidence in the current quarterbacks to do what's necessary to win.

"You have to understand that we try to stay focused on the goal at hand, and that's not going to change," he said.

Favre's uncertainty about whether to quit pro football after 18 seasons or keep playing has created the kind of drama usually reserved for one of his performances with the Vikings' chief rival, Green Bay.

When Favre reconsidered his first retirement last summer and the Packers wouldn't let him return, he wanted to be traded to Minnesota. After going to the New York Jets instead, he wore down at the end of last season and said in February he was done for good.

"It's time to leave," he told reporters then.

Several Jets teammates complained afterward about Favre's standoffishness. But after an informal practice Thursday, players took a higher ground when asked the now-annual question about his status.

"This guy's been the face of the NFL for a long time," running back Leon Washington said. "If he can still throw that ball and still sling it, he still has the right to do it, in my opinion."

Crane shoots 65 for a 1-shot lead at Players

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Ben Crane plays his best golf when he keeps it simple.

His day began with a drive down PGA Tour Boulevard on the back of his caddie's moped because his wife had the car. Once he got on the TPC Sawgrass, he kept the ball on land—not easy to do on a course where 89 balls found the water—and then got it into the hole so quickly he needed only 22 putts.

He left the thrills, and the spills, to everyone else Thursday at The Players Championship.

"A lot of people say 'horses for courses,'" Crane said after a 7-under 65 for a one-shot lead. "But for me, it's just a matter of am I able to keep it simple and just play golf and not worry about too much about other things."

Tiger Woods worried about his putting. He didn't make one longer than 4 feet on his way to a 1-under 71.

Defending champion Sergio Garcia also had a 71, but there is nothing simple about his game right now. Even with a respectable score, he said he was playing so badly it "makes me want to puke."

Phil Mickelson fired off three straight birdies, then hit only four greens in regulation the rest of the way for a 73, the first time he failed to break par in the opening round on the TPC Sawgrass in eight years.

"Looked like it was going to be a great round," Mickelson said. "And then it just kind of went away."

Crane couldn't relate.

He dropped only two shots—from a bunker on No. 8 and the rough-covered mounds right of the 14th fairway—and made four birdie putts longer than 20 feet.

THE PLAYERS

"It's one of those rounds that you just live for when you're a golfer," he said. "And I had one today at one of my favorite courses and tournaments of all time."

He had a one-shot lead over John Mallinger, Alex Cejka and Richard S. Johnson, with a large group at 67 that included Retief Goosen, David Toms, Camilo Villegas and Scott Verplank, who had two eagles—one of them from 150 yards out on the 15th fairway, another with a putt that seemed about that long on the par-5 second.

That can happen on one of the most exciting courses in golf, where small mistakes can turn into big numbers.

Brian Gay made a small error by trying to reach the fourth green from the left rough, coming up short and into the water. He took a drop, dumped it in the water again, finally got on land and three-putted for a quintuple-bogey 9 on his way to an 80, one of five players who failed to break 80.

Or take the group of Steve Lowery, Daniel Chopra and Paul Goydos. They played the par-3 17th in a combined 18 shots, with four balls in the water—and Goydos made a par. Lowery put two in the drink and three-putted for an 8, while Chopra rinsed two and made 7.

But there were times that Sawgrass was forgiving.

Villegas was cruising along at 3 under early in his round when he punched a 6-iron from under the trees to just short of the green, then chipped too hard and watched it roll off the green and into the water. He dropped on the edge of the putting surface and holed a 35-foot putt to walk off with a par.

"It's funny how people talk, 'Oh, this golf course is perfect for this guy or for that guy,' and trust me," Villegas said, "players don't think that way. We just get a target and swing at it. I'll be out there focusing on every target, every swing, every shot, and hopefully, keep it going."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	20	11	.645	-
Boston	18	11	.621	1
Tampa Bay	14	16	.467	5 1/2
New York	13	15	.464	5 1/2
Baltimore	12	17	.414	7

Central Division

Kansas City	18	11	.621	-
Detroit	14	13	.519	3
Chicago	13	13	.500	3 1/2
Minnesota	13	16	.448	5
Cleveland	11	18	.379	7

West Division

Texas	15	13	.536	-
Seattle	14	14	.500	1
Los Angeles	13	14	.481	1 1/2
Oakland	10	16	.385	4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	14	12	.538	-
New York	14	13	.519	1/2
Florida	15	14	.517	1/2
Atlanta	13	15	.464	2
Washington	8	18	.308	6

Central Division

St. Louis	19	10	.655	-
Chicago	16	12	.571	2 1/2
Milwaukee	16	13	.552	3
Cincinnati	15	13	.536	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	12	16	.429	6 1/2
Houston	11	17	.393	7 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	21	9	.700	-
San Francisco	14	13	.519	5 1/2
San Diego	13	16	.448	7 1/2
Arizona	12	17	.414	8 1/2
Colorado	11	16	.407	8 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Kansas City 3, Seattle 1
Oakland 9, Texas 4
Tampa Bay 8, N.Y. Yankees 6
Baltimore 5, Minnesota 4
Boston 13, Cleveland 3
Chicago White Sox 6, Detroit 0
L.A. Angels 6, Toronto 1
Atlanta 4, Florida 2
St. Louis 5, Pittsburgh 2
San Francisco 8, Colorado 3
San Diego 4, Arizona 3, 10 innings
N.Y. Mets 7, Philadelphia 5
Cincinnati 6, Milwaukee 5
Chicago Cubs 8, Houston 5
Washington 11, L.A. Dodgers 9

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP LEADERBOARD

FIRST ROUND

Ben Crane	65
John Mallinger	66
Richard S. Johnson	66
Alex Cejka	66
Jonathan Byrd	67
Scott Verplank	67
Retief Goosen	67
David Toms	67
Ian Poulter	67
Brad Adamonis	67
Camilo Villegas	67
Bubba Watson	67
Jason Dufner	67
Jeev Milkha Singh	68
Nick O'Hern	68
John Rollins	68
Henrik Stenson	68
Nick Watney	68
Tim Petrovic	68
Jim Furyk	68
Johnson Wagner	69
Mark Wilson	69
Ken Duke	70
Fredrik Jacobson	70
Stewart Cink	70
Justin Leonard	70
Charley Hoffman	70
George McNeill	70
Billy Mayfair	70
Justin Rose	70
Soren Kjeldsen	70
John Merrick	70
Stephen Ames	70
Geoff Ogilvy	70
Paul Casey	70
Chez Reavie	70
Rod Pampling	70
Michael Allen	71
Martin Laird	71
Ryan Moore	71
Graeme McDowell	71
Ben Curtis	71
Tiger Woods	71
Sergio Garcia	71
Vijay Singh	71
Stuart Appleby	71
Bo Van Pelt	71
Jeff Overton	71
Kevin Na	71
Scott Piercy	71
Brian Davis	71
Aaron Baddeley	71
Steve Stricker	71
Adam Scott	71
Michael Letzig	71
Martin Kaymer	71
Jeff Klauk	71
Cliff Kresge	72
Woody Austin	72
Joe Ogilvie	72
J.B. Holmes	72
Mike Weir	72
Zach Johnson	72
John Senden	72
Jason Bohn	72
Tim Clark	72
Brett Quigley	72
Cameron Beckman	72
Padraig Harrington	72
Angel Cabrera	72
Dustin Johnson	72
Pat Perez	72
Ryuji Imada	72
Matt Kuchar	72
Steve Marino	72
Briny Baird	72
Vaughn Taylor	72
Eric Axley	72
Rocco Mediate	73
Fred Funk	73
Trevor Immelman	73
Boo Weekley	73
Ernie Els	73
Davis Love III	73
Y.E. Yang	73
K.J. Choi	73
Charles Howell III	73
Dudley Hart	73
Steve Elkington	73
Nicholas Thompson	73
Troy Matteson	73
J.J. Henry	73
Kevin Sutherland	73
Will MacKenzie	73
Hunter Mahan	73
Robert Allenby	73
Phil Mickelson	73
Kenny Perry	73
Jerry Kelly	73
Anthony Kim	73
Sean O'Hair	73
Jeff Quinney	73
Lucas Glover	73
Corey Pavin	74
Charlie Wi	74
Andres Romero	74
Luke Donald	74
Tommy Armour III	74
Thongchai Jaidee	74
Rory McIlroy	74
Scott McCarron	74
Ross Fisher	74
Tom Pernice Jr.	74
Greg Kraft	74
Carl Pettersson	74
Todd Hamilton	74
D.J. Trahan	74
Nathan Green	74
Robert Karlsson	74
Kevin Streelman	74
Bart Bryant	74
Bill Haas	74
Bob Estes	75
Tim Herron	75
Daniel Chopra	75
Steve Flesch	75
Ryan Palmer	75
Chad Campbell	75
Parker McLachlin	75
Heath Slocum	75
Marc Turnesa	76
Mathew Goggin	76
Webb Simpson	76
Matt Bettencourt	76
Dean Wilson	77
Peter Lonard	77
Tim Wilkinson	77
Paul Goydos	78
Michael Bradley	80
Fred Couples	80
Brian Gay	80
Steve Lowery	81
Rory Sabbatini	81

By The Associated Press

Run 4 Ron fundraiser this May 24

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

After successfully scaling Mt. Fuji last year, Ronald Villafria will take part in the 2009 Fuji Mountain Race and is again calling on the sports community to help him with the cost of flying to Japan.

Villafria said he will hold his Run 4 Ron II fundraiser on May 24 and the five-kilometer race will start at the Micro Beach pavilion and will have participants run north toward the old Puerto Rico dumpsite and back.

Entry fee for the Run 4 Ron II fundraiser is $15 and will entitle participants to a free event T-shirt, refreshments after the race, and a ticket to the raffle.

Villafria took part in the 2008 Fuji Mountain Race, or Fuji Tozan Race, in July 25, 2009 and finished the 36-kilometer trek up and down the 12,388-foot mountain in four hours and 20 minutes.

The Mt. Fuji Marathon or Fuji Tozan Race is composed of two legs, a 15-kilometer race to the fifth station of the mountain and a 21-km race all the way to the top. The final six-kilometers of the race is also a trail run.

Villafria in one of only 6,000 participants that have been pre-screened to take part in the 2009 edition of the Fuji Mountain Race.

A number of businesses and individuals have already signed up as sponsors of Run 4 Run II, namely Salon de Manila, DFS Galleria, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Hard Rock Café Saipan, LBT Appraisal, Auto Glass Pro, Fomacon Liner, GEC Pawnshop, Jazy Sportswear, Bobby Mandapat, Island Apparel, Coco Restaurant, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., Custom Construction, Steven Pixley, Susan Espanillo, Erwin Aquino, and John Ilao.

MARK RABAGO
Ronald Villafria, seen here crossing the finish line in the 2009 CNMI Half Marathon Championship, will host Run 4 Ron II to raise funds for his participation in the 2009 Fuji Mountain Race.

Last year, a total of 120 signed up for the first Run 4 Ron fundraiser with 70 taking part in the actual run. The remaining 50 opted to donate the $10 to Villafria's scheduled Japan trip.

Eli Torgeson and Maimi Shimizu won the men's and women's open division and they took home first-place trophies and cool Hard Rock Café denim jackets.

Sixteen-year-old long-distance runner Matthew Mancao and Tamio Nishikido finished second to Torgeson and Shimizu, while Mieko Carey and Suzy Kindel rounded up the top male and female finishers.

Age group finishers were brothers Lester Lapuz and Rowel Pamaran (18-and-under male); Jodel Fernandez (18-and-under female); Fernan Capillan, Rick Villanueva, and Jay Boado (19-29 male); Emily Gries (19-29 female); Lewie Tenorio, Alberto Cataina, and Butch Sublemente (30-39 male); Zandra Um (30-39 female); Florence Antonio, Cesar Danao, and Ireneo Isip (40-49 male); Dawn Hammermeister (40-49 female); and Steve Pixley, Chang Wan Jang, and Rene Calage (50-59 male), and Phyllis Hammermeister (50-59 female).

New league holds summer youth caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A new basketball league has been formed in the Unified Basketball Association, Inc. and the group will hold its inaugural event via the 2009 U.B.A. Summer Youth Basketball League next week.

Veteran cager James Lee is the association's president with Joe Diaz as vice president. Marvin Deocares and Dante Olivos were elected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

"Unified Basketball Association Inc. is a non-profit organization created to help improve the standards of the sport of basketball on our island. With that in mind, the organization's mission is to create and provide a consistent calendar of leagues and tournaments for all ages and to offer a reasonable entry fee so that our youth, adults, as well as our respectable Masters can enjoy and love the game," Lee said in an e-mail sent to *Saipan Tribune*.

Lee added the league will kick off the summer caging on May 15 at the Garapan Basketball Court. Complete schedule will be announced once the rosters and other requirements are finalized.

So far, the league has five teams each entered in three divisions.

Division I, which is for 13 to 15 age group, has Rollers A and B, Sonics and Junior Sonics, and Sixers on its list.

Lee

Rollers, Kagman Ayuyu, China Town Lil' Saints, San Antonio Sixers, and Sonics are entered in Division II, which will have players in the 16 to 17 age group.

Division III, which will cater to players in the 18 to 20 age category, has Rollers, Rock Steady, Kagman Sparks, Project Impact, and Pink Buns.

Organizers are calling on coaches, players, and parents to attend a meeting with league officials on May 9 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Lee said they will discuss at the meeting the ground rules for the upcoming league. The meeting will also allow coaches, players, as well as parents, to ask questions or even give suggestions and comments about the league.

"This will allow both sides to understand thoroughly the rules and regulations in the league, and also help improve what we, organizers, might have missed," Lee said.

OVER 100

From Page 28

will be giving away 50 cupcakes. A special SOPHIA Walk cake donated by Joanna's Transportation will also be served.

Named after former first lady Sophia Tenorio, SOPHIA stands for Saipan Outdoor Physical Health Invigorating Adventure.

For more information about MWA and its future events, contact Mario at 322-8876, Hiroko at 322-8781, or Bea at 285-1694.

MWA was formerly called Saipan Walking Association, Inc. or SAIWAI. ***(Mark Rabago)***

RUSSELL

From Page 28

"He operated the boat for us in the first two tournaments and he won't be with us this year. He is going to Satawal on the Carolinian canoes. I hope this does not ruin our mojo. He is a big part of the team and of our success," said Russell of Somol who is an employee of Division of Environmental Quality.

The 3rd Annual Spearfishing Tournament is organized by the Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club and interested anglers have until only today, May 9, to cast their entries.

Would-be participants can submit their entries no later than 5pm today at Aquasmith Dive Shop in Garapan.

Participants from Tinian, Rota, Guam, or other island residents, meanwhile, can send their entries through e-mail (dive@aquasmith.com) and payments can be made a day before the tournament.

The entry fee per person is $50 and MASC will only accept a catch that is at least 11 lbs.

The third edition of tournament on May 16 starts at 6am and last until 4pm with no limitation on the area of coverage. The spearfishing area includes Tinian or Goat Island, except sanctuary and dive spots, and the Banzai Cliff area.

Categories to be contested are biggest fish (first prize only) and total weight, which includes individual (first to third) and team (first to 10th places).

MASC president Morito Asai said there would be no fish category this year to minimize the time for weigh-ins.

For more information about the 3rd Annual Spearfishing Tournament, contact Asai at dive@aquasmith.com.

TYPHOON

From Page 28

IT&E Typhoon's defense allowed the Padres to score no more than one run in the second, fourth, and sixth inning. Thomas Dela Cruz scored all Padres' runs, while IT&E Typhoon had six runners reaching home plate.

Before thumping Padres, IT&E Typhoon came from a close 6-5 win over the Pirates on April 25.

Behind 0-2 after one and a half innings, a three-run bottom of the second put IT&E Typhoon back in the game. IT&E Typhoon tallied two more runs in the third to keep the lead, 5-4 and made it a two-run lead after five complete innings, 6-4, with Joseph Mendiola scoring his second run in the fourth.

The Pirates scored two runs apiece in the first and third inning and had a shutout in the second, fourth, and fifth, forcing the team to earn at least two runs to extend the game.

But the Pirates mustered only one run, because after Dominic Sablan nailed the team's fifth run, IT&E Typhoon's defense tightened up, beating two runners on first base and pitcher D-Boy Cruz striking out the Pirates' fifth batter for the third out.

MANGLONA

From Page 28

10) of 42.54. In the 100m breaststroke, the 10-year-old swimmer timed in at 1:38.64, also less than three seconds shy of the CNMI age group mark (1:35.67). In the 200m breaststroke and 400m freestyle swims, Tan submitted personal best times of 3:31.53 and 6:27.20, respectively.

Ramirez suspended 50 games for drug violation

Manny Ramirez joined a growing lineup of All-Stars linked to drugs Thursday, with the dreadlocked slugger banished for 50 games by a sport that cannot shake free from scandal. 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

LeBron, Cavs coast past Hawks, 105-85

While the rest of the NBA exchanges elbows, flagrant fouls and menacing stares in the playoffs, the Cleveland Cavaliers are looking for a fight. 26

Manglona leads April's best

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tinian triathlete Joshua Manglona made it to NMASA's elite list for the first time, as he and three others were named Athletes of the Month for April during the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association meeting Thursday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Manglona, who just started getting involved in triathlon last year, was cited for his performance in the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championships and 20th Tagaman Triathlon last month.

The 21-year-old Tinian pride debuted in the Crown Jewel of XTERRA Series with a runner-up finish in the 20 to 24 age group. He completed the grueling 1-km swim leg, 30-km bike race, and the 10-k run portion in four hours, 40 minutes, and 54 seconds.

In the longer Tagaman races, Manglona finished the 1.5-km swim leg, 60-km road bike race, and 15-km run in 4:27:23.

Getting the NMASA Male Athlete of the Month for April is a sort of belated gift for the Tinian triathlete, who celebrated his 21st birthday last month.

Joining Manglona in the monthly awardees list were tennis' Rafael Jones and Melody Johnson and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Angel Tan.

Jones claimed the Male Student Athlete of the Month plum for winning the boys'14-and-under singles title in last month's 2009 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.

Jones prevailed in the finals over perennial rival Christian Miller despite losing in the first set, 1-6. The Saipan International School Student swept the last two sets, 6-4, 6-4, to nail a come-from-behind win.

Johnson and Tan were named co-Female Student Athletes of the Month.

Johnson is making a return in local junior tennis scene after leaving for the mainland about three years ago to be with her then ailing father and is quickly returning to her old top form. She won the girls' 14-and-under singles tiara in the Commonwealth's junior championships after downing Neghar Rastguiy in straight sets, 6-2. 6-0.

Tan joined last month's Tsunami Saipan-Saipan Swim Club mutual meet and recorded four personal best times.

She clocked in at 44.41 seconds in 50m breaststroke, less than three seconds behind the CNMI age group record (9 to

See MANGLONA on Page 27

Over 100 expected for SOPHIA Walk

Over 100 walkers, including 13 from Japan, are expected to take part in Marianas Walking Association's 10th Annual SOPHIA Walk set for Mother's Day tomorrow along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

MWA said the 13 Japanese participants are from Nippon Turtle Association, a group that has graced the event the past several years.

SOPHIA Walk starts from the Carolinian Utt Pavilion in Garapan with the registration starting at 7am.

It will have two courses. The longer 10-kilometer course will take participants south all the way to Oleai bus stop turning point (near Oleai Beach & Bar) and back to the Carolinian Utt.

For the shorter 5-km course, the turning point is located at the Old World War II Japanese Tank and back to the Carolinian Utt.

Registration is free and includes fruits and drinks. An event T-shirt is also for sale and costs $7. Special treats also await participants, especially mothers, as MWA

See OVER 100 on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members, coaches, and the team manager of IT&E Typhoon pose for a group photo before their game in the Tinian Little League Baseball against the Pirates late last month.

Typhoon retains lead in Tinian Little League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IT&E Typhoon crushed San Jose Padres, 11-3, to keep the lead in the Major division of the 2009 Tinian Little League Baseball.

Before Wednesday's game, Typhoon was only half a game ahead of the Pirates with the former having a 9-3 record against the latter's 9-4 mark. The eight-run win over the Padres helped Typhoon widen its distance a bit against the Pirates. The loss dropped the Padres to a 0-13 slate.

IT&E Typhoon seized control of the game early with a 4-0 lead after the first inning. It failed to score in the second, but recovered in the last three innings, making three runs in the third and two apiece in the fourth and fifth.

See TYPHOON on Page 27

Russell, Houk gear up for spearfishing tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Scott Russell, right, and Pete Houk show of their prize catch in this file photo. The two will defend their weight category title in the 3rd Annual Spearfishing Tournament set for May 16.

Two-time defending weight division winners Scott Russell and Pete Houk are eyeing a three-peat in the 3rd Annual Spearfishing Tournament set for May 16 in the waters off the Northern Marianas.

"We took first in team weight in both tournaments and would love to complete a hat trick this year. It will be difficult though, as there will be a lot of good fishermen competing again this year such as Felix Sasamoto and the Borja brothers (James and Ken) from Guam just to name a few. We look forward to the challenge and will just try to do our best and hope it is good enough to place among the top teams," said Russell in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

To prepare to defend their title, Russell said he and Houk have been going out the past few weekends to dive and to check out possible new fishing spots.

"We won't make a final decision on where to dive until the day of the tournament when we see the weather. Strategy will be key to winning. The teams that get to the good spots first and take care of business will probably take the top spots. Luck is also a factor," he added.

One thing going against the Dynamic Duo though is the absence of their regular skipper, Ben Somol.

See RUSSELL on Page 27